

Proverbs 11:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

Analysis

He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind, and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. Domestic strife brings empty inheritance - 'wind' suggests vanity, nothing of substance. The fool's folly results in servitude to the wise. This verse warns that family dysfunction produces lasting harm while wisdom produces lasting advantage. Troubling one's house forfeits inheritance; wisdom secures position.

Historical Context

Reflects patriarchal household structure where inheritance was critical. Causing domestic turmoil could result in disinheritance or reduced portion. Wisdom secured favor; folly brought judgment.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How might you be 'troubling your house' in ways that will produce empty results?

2. What wisdom do you need to develop to avoid servitude to others' folly?

Interlinear Text

עַל־ר	בֵּיתוֹ	יִנְחֹל	רֵוַח	וְעַבְדֵּךְ
He that troubleth	his own house	shall inherit	the wind	shall be servant
H5916	H1004	H5157	H7307	H5650
אֶל־יֹלֵל	לְחֹכִים	לֵב:		
and the fool	to the wise	of heart		
H191	H2450	H3820		

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 5:16 (Parallel theme): And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

Proverbs 14:19 (Parallel theme): The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.