

Proverbs 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

Analysis

A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise. Lo ye'ehav-lets lehokiyach lo (לֹא יֵאָהֱבֶהֱלֶט לְהוֹכִיחַ לוֹ, a scorner does not love one who reproves him). Lets (לֶט, scorner, mocker, scoffer) refuses correction. El-chakhamim lo yelekh (לֹא יֵלֶךְ, to the wise he will not go). Scorners avoid wise people who might confront their folly. This self-imposed isolation from truth guarantees continued foolishness. By contrast, Proverbs 13:20 promises: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise." Scorners' pride prevents them from seeking wisdom that would save them.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom communities included teachers and disciples. Scorners, too proud for instruction, avoided wise mentors. Biblical examples include Rehoboam rejecting elders' counsel (1 Kings 12:8), Pharaoh hardening his heart against Moses (Exodus 7-11), and the Pharisees rejecting Jesus (John 9:40-41). Pride prevents learning. Humility seeks wise counsel (Proverbs 15:22, 19:20).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you seek out wise people who will reprove you, or do you avoid those who might confront your sins?
2. What pride might be preventing you from going to the wise for counsel and correction?
3. Who are the wise people in your life, and are you actively pursuing their input and accountability?

Interlinear Text

א	ל	יֶאֱהָב	לִי	הוֹכִיחַ	לִי	אֶל	חֲכָמִים	א
H3808		loveth	A scorner	not one that reproveth	H0	H413	unto the wise	H3808
		H157	H3887	H3198			H2450	

יִלְלֵהוּ
H1980

Additional Cross-References

Amos 5:10 (Parallel theme): They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

Job 21:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.