

Proverbs 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Analysis

A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. Ish chema yeggareh madon (ישמה גרה מdon), a man of heat stirs up strife). Hot-tempered people provoke (garah, גרה, stir up, provoke) conflict (madon, מdon, strife, contention). Ve'erekh appayim yashqit riv (וְאֶרֶךְ אֱפִים יְשַׁקֵּט רֵב, but long of nostrils quiets quarrel). Erekh appayim (literally "long of nose") means patient, slow to anger. Such people calm (shaqat, שָׁקַט, quiet, calm, appease) disputes. The proverb teaches that temperament shapes community—patient people make peace, angry people make war.

Historical Context

Ancient societies experienced frequent conflicts over land, water, honor. Hot-tempered individuals escalated minor issues into blood feuds. Patient leaders mediated disputes, preserving community peace. Biblical peacemakers include Abraham with Lot (Genesis 13), Gideon with Ephraimites (Judges 8:1-3), Abigail with David (1 Samuel 25). Jesus blessed peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). James urges slowness to anger (James 1:19-20).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Are you typically stirring up or appeasing strife in your relationships and communities?
2. What situations tend to trigger your anger, and how can you cultivate patience there?
3. How does the gospel's peace (Christ reconciling enemies to God) empower you to be a peacemaker among people?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ מָה חָמָת יִגְרֶה מַדּוֹן אֲכָר אַפְּתָח יְשַׁׁבֵּךְ
man A wrathful stirreth up strife but he that is slow to anger appeaseth
H376 H2534 H1624 H4066 H750 H639 H8252

רִיב:

strife

H7379

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:21 (Parallel theme): As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Proverbs 15:1 (Judgment): A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 29:22 (Parallel theme): An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Proverbs 14:29 (Judgment): He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Matthew 5:9 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Ecclesiastes 10:4 (Parallel theme): If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Proverbs 10:12 (Parallel theme): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Proverbs 16:28 (Parallel theme): A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Proverbs 28:25 (Parallel theme): He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

Proverbs 25:15 (Parallel theme): By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org