

# Proverbs 17:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

## Analysis

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This 'better than' proverb prioritizes peace over plenty. A dry morsel (minimal food) with quietness surpasses a house full of sacrifices (abundance) with strife. The Hebrew 'shalem' (quietness) suggests wholeness and peace. Reformed theology recognizes contentment as gift of grace, valuing covenant harmony over material prosperity.

## Historical Context

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Sacrificial feasts were occasions of abundance in ancient Israel, yet family strife could poison even these sacred meals. Solomon contrasts external religious observance with genuine relational peace.

## Related Passages

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you prioritize peace over prosperity in your household?
2. What contentment with little would bring more joy than abundance with conflict?

## Interlinear Text

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טוב	פת	חֶרֶב	וְשָׁלוֹם	בֵּה	מִבֵּית	מִלֵּא
Better	morsel	is a dry	and quietness	H0	therewith than an house	full
H2896	H6595	H2720	H7962		H1004	H4392
זְבָחִי	רִיב:					
of sacrifices	with strife					
H2077	H7379					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 15:17** (Parallel theme): Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

**Proverbs 21:19** (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

**Psalms 37:16** (Parallel theme): A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

**Proverbs 21:9** (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.