

Proverbs 18:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Analysis

Answering before listening demonstrates foolish pride—assuming one knows without hearing fully. This is both folly and shame, revealing presumption and disrespect. James 1:19 echoes this: be quick to hear, slow to speak. Wisdom requires patient listening before responding.

Historical Context

Court proceedings and council deliberations required careful hearing of all testimony before rendering judgment. Premature conclusions led to injustice and foolish decisions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How often do you interrupt or mentally prepare responses instead of truly listening?
2. What helps you practice patient hearing before speaking?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| הֵיא | אִן לֵת | יִשְׁמַע | בְּטֶרֶם | דָּ בָר | יִמָּשׁ יב |
| H1931 | it it is folly | before he heareth | H2962 | a matter | He that answereth |
| | H200 | H8085 | | H1697 | H7725 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| וְכָל־מָה: ל' ו' | | | | | |
| H0 and shame | | | | | |
| H3639 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

John 7:51 (Parallel theme): Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

Deuteronomy 13:14 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you;