

Proverbs 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

Analysis

This verse addresses two sources of domestic grief: the foolish son and the contentious wife. The Hebrew 'havvah' (calamity) denotes not merely inconvenience but genuine disaster. A son's folly—rejection of wisdom and godly counsel—brings ruin upon his father's household through shame, wasted resources, and broken relationships. The 'continual dropping' metaphor vividly depicts the wearing effect of constant strife; like water eroding stone, persistent contention destroys peace and joy. Both situations result from rebellion against God's order—the son against wisdom, the wife against her role as helpmeet.

Historical Context

In ancient Israelite society, sons were expected to honor fathers and carry on family legacy, making a foolish son a profound failure. Wives who cultivated strife violated the covenant relationship that should reflect Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What patterns of foolishness or contention exist in your family relationships that need to be addressed?
2. How can the gospel transform both the rebellious heart and the contentious spirit?

Interlinear Text

הוּת	לְ אָבִיו	בֶּן	כֹּסֵל	וְדֹלֶף	טֶרֶד
is the calamity	of his father	son	A foolish	dropping	are a continual
H1942	H1	H1121	H3684	H1812	H2956
מְדִינָה	אִשָּׁה:				
and the contentions	of a wife				
H4079	H802				

Additional Cross-References

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.

Proverbs 27:15 (Parallel theme): A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Proverbs 10:1 (Parallel theme): The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Job 14:19 (Parallel theme): The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.

Proverbs 17:25 (Parallel theme): A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

Proverbs 25:24 (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

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

Proverbs 17:21 (Parallel theme): He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

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