

# 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

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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

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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

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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טְכַדְּרָה  
are a continual  
יְדַלְּקָה  
dropping  
כָּסֵל  
A foolish  
בֶּן  
son  
לְאָבִי  
of his father  
הַזָּהָר  
the calamity  
  
אֲשֶׁר  
of a wife  
מִדְבָּר  
contentions  
  
and the contentious

is the calamity      of his father      son      A foolish      dropping      are a continual  
H1942                    H1                    H1121                    H3684                    H1812                    H2956  
H4079                    H802

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 washest 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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