

# Proverbs 19:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

## Analysis

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This verse condemns the son who violates the fifth commandment through violence or expulsion of parents. 'Wasteth' and 'chaseth away' depict active cruelty—plundering a father's resources and driving away a mother. Such behavior brings 'shame and reproach'—public disgrace that reveals profound moral bankruptcy. The one who should honor and care for aging parents instead treats them as obstacles or resources to exploit. This represents covenant-breaking at the most fundamental level, violating both natural law and divine command. Such wickedness demonstrates a heart alienated from God, for how can one claim to love the invisible God while despising visible parents who gave him life?

## Historical Context

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Israelite law mandated severe penalties (death) for striking or cursing parents (Exodus 21:15, 17). Caring for elderly parents was a sacred duty, and failure brought covenant curse.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How are you honoring and caring for your parents in their aging years?
2. What cultural pressures tempt us to neglect or marginalize elderly parents?

## Interlinear Text

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הַשֹּׁדֵד	אָב	וַיִּבֶר יָם	אִמּוֹ	כִּי בֶן
He that wasteth	his father	and chaseth away	his mother	is a son
H7703	H1	H1272	H517	H1121
וְיָשׁוּב	וַיִּמְחֹפֵר:			
that causeth shame	and bringeth reproach			
H954	H2659			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 10:5** (Parallel theme): He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

**Proverbs 17:2** (Parallel theme): A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.