

Proverbs 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

Analysis

Divine judgment awaits the mocker. 'Judgments are prepared' depicts God's certain response to those who scorn wisdom and mock righteousness. 'Stripes for the back of fools' refers to corporal punishment, whether human or divine. The scouter's arrogance will be humbled; the fool's obstinacy will be broken. While discipline aims at correction, some become so hardened that punishment serves only justice, not restoration. This verse warns that God will not be mocked (Galatians 6:7)—those who persist in scoffing at His wisdom will face His wrath. Yet it also offers hope: if we are not yet scorners, we can still receive correction and avoid judgment.

Historical Context

Biblical law prescribed physical punishment for various offenses. While fallen humans could abuse this, it reflected God's just governance and the seriousness of sin.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what ways might you be scorning God's wisdom rather than humbly receiving it?
2. How should the certainty of coming judgment affect your daily choices?

Interlinear Text

כִּסְלִים: לְגַזְעַי מִתְמַלֵּם וְתַשְׁפִּט יְמֵנָה לְלִזְעַי מִתְמַלֵּם וְתַשְׁפִּט יְמֵנָה
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H3559 H3887 H8201 H4112 H1460 H3684

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:3 (Parallel theme): A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

Proverbs 10:13 (Parallel theme): In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

Proverbs 9:12 (Parallel theme): If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.