

Proverbs 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judgments are prepared for scorers, 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 scorner'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 scorers, 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

נֶכְּאוֹנוּ	לִלְצֵי יָם	שְׁפָט יָם	וּמַהֲלָמ וְ	לִגְו	כְּסִילִים:
are prepared	for scorers	Judgments	and stripes	for the back	of fools
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.