

Proverbs 23:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Analysis

Proper discipline 'shall deliver his soul from hell'—the stakes are eternal. Physical correction aims at spiritual salvation by training children in righteousness, teaching consequences, and breaking stubborn will. This doesn't mean discipline saves (only Christ does), but faithful parenting is a means God uses to bring children to faith. Discipline teaches that actions have consequences, authority must be obeyed, and sin brings punishment—preparing hearts for gospel truth. Parents who refuse discipline risk their children's souls. Hebrews 12:5-11 applies this principle to God's fatherly discipline of believers. Earthly discipline reflects and teaches about divine discipline aimed at holiness and ultimate blessing.

Historical Context

Israelite law prescribed severe penalties for persistent rebellion, showing how seriously God views parental authority and children's obedience as foundational to covenant community health.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you discipline with the eternal perspective that you're training a soul, not merely modifying behavior?
2. How does God's fatherly discipline of you inform your approach to disciplining children?

Interlinear Text

פָּצַל: מִשְׁאָא וְלִי נְפָשָׁה בְּשֵׁבֶת תַּפְּכֵה אֶל וְנִפְשֵׁת אֶת־תְּהֵה
H859 him with the rod H7626 Thou shalt beat H5221 his soul H5315 from hell H7585 and shalt deliver H5337

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 22:15 (Parallel theme): Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

1 Corinthians 5:5 (Parallel theme): To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:32 (Parallel theme): But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.