

Proverbs 23:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

Analysis

Honoring parents extends to caring for them in old age, not despising their weakness or diminished capacity. This application of the fifth commandment shows covenant faithfulness across the lifespan. Despising aging parents violates their God-given dignity and one's foundational obligations.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures varied in their treatment of elderly parents. Israel's law mandated honor and provision, reflecting God's concern for the vulnerable and dependent.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you honor and care for aging parents or elderly people in your community?
2. What does faithful covenant keeping look like across all stages of family relationships?

Interlinear Text

פִּ	תְּ בָ וְ	שָׁמָעַ	לְ אָבִיךְ	זֶה	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	פִּ
Hearken	unto thy father	H2088	that begat	H408	thee and despise	H3588	
H8085	H1		H3205		H936		

אָתָּה בְּרִית
when she is old not thy mother
H2204 H517

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 30:17 (Parallel theme): The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Proverbs 1:8 (Parallel theme): My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Proverbs 6:20 (Parallel theme): My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Deuteronomy 27:16 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Leviticus 19:3 (Parallel theme): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Proverbs 30:11 (Parallel theme): There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Mark 7:10 (Parallel theme): For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

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