

Proverbs 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Analysis

This proverb parallels verse 15, emphasizing parental joy in righteous children. 'The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice' (בֶּן־צַדִּיק יָגֵל/yagil ygil tsaddiq, greatly rejoice will the father of a righteous one) uses intensive verb form indicating exuberant joy. 'He that begetteth a wise child' (חָכָם־בָּן/yeyoled chakham, one who fathers a wise son) provides the parallel cause. 'Shall have joy of him' (יִשְׁמַח־בָּן/yismach-bo, will rejoice in him) indicates ongoing satisfaction. This reverses Proverbs 10:1: 'a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.' The contrast is stark—wisdom brings joy; folly brings grief. This motivates both parents (to teach wisdom) and children (to pursue it). Ultimately, this points to God's joy in His children. He rejoices over believers 'with singing' (Zephaniah 3:17). Our sanctification brings Him glory (John 15:8).

Historical Context

Proverbs repeatedly addresses parent-child dynamics, reflecting family's central role in ancient Israel. Family wasn't merely a social unit but the primary means of transmitting faith, values, and covenant identity across generations. The Shema commanded: 'these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children' (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Generational faithfulness ensured covenant blessing; generational apostasy brought judgment (Exodus 20:5-6). The exile resulted partly from failed parental instruction (Judges 2:10). Post-exile Israel emphasized family education, developing practices that became Judaism's foundation. In the early church,

parents were commanded to 'bring up [children] in the nurture and admonition of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). Family discipleship remained central to faith transmission.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How intentionally are you pursuing wisdom and righteousness, considering its impact on those who love you?
2. If you are a parent, what legacy of wisdom are you leaving your children?
3. How does God's joy in His children's faithfulness motivate your sanctification?

Interlinear Text

רֹא	גַּדְלָה	בְּנֵי	אָבִים	צָדִיקִים	וְלֹא	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
rejoice	shall greatly	The father	of the righteous	and he that begetteth		a wise	
H1523	H1524	H1	H6662	H3205		H2450	
בָּנִים	בָּנִים						
child shall have joy	child shall have joy						
H8055	H8055						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:1 (Parallel theme): The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 29:3 (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

Proverbs 15:20 (Parallel theme): A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

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