

Proverbs 25:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

Analysis

A wise reprover to an obedient ear is like a gold earring or ornament of fine gold. The Hebrew 'yakach' (reprove/correct) and 'shama' (hearing/obedient) describe receptive response to correction. When correction is wise and hearer receptive, beautiful relationship results - valuable as golden jewelry. This verse celebrates both skillful correction and humble receptivity. The beauty isn't in conflict but in growth through constructive confrontation.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures valued ornamental jewelry - gold earrings and ornaments signified wealth and beauty. Comparing wise correction to such valuables emphasizes reproof's value when received well. James 5:19-20 celebrates those who convert erring brothers: 'He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death.' Hebrews 12:11 teaches: 'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.'

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How receptive are you to wise correction - do you receive it as valuable jewelry or resent it as attack?
2. Who provides wise reproof in your life, and are you cultivating 'obedient ear' to receive it?
3. What skills would make your correction of others more wise and well-received?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כָּסֶם	מִזְכָּרָה	כָּתָם	יְפָלֵל	כָּבֵב	זָמֵן
As an earring	of gold	and an ornament	of fine gold	reprover	so is a wise	H5921
H5141	H2091	H2481	H3800	H3198	H2450	

שָׁמַעַת אֵלֶיךָ
upon an obedient ear

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 141:5 (Parallel theme): Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.

Proverbs 15:5 (Parallel theme): A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Proverbs 9:8 (Parallel theme): Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 20:12 (Parallel theme): The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.