

Proverbs 25:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

Analysis

Better to dwell in a corner of the housetop than share a house with a contentious woman. The Hebrew 'pinnah gag' (corner of roof) and 'midyanim' (contentions/strife) create stark contrast. Small uncomfortable space alone beats spacious house with constant conflict. Peace is more valuable than comfort; tranquility than luxury. This applies to all contentious relationships - peaceful poverty beats prosperous strife. Choose relationships wisely; chronic conflict destroys quality of life.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern houses had flat roofs used for various purposes. A corner of roof was minimal, exposed space - uncomfortable but solitary. The comparison emphasizes that constant strife makes even luxury miserable. Proverbs 21:9 and 21:19 repeat this, and 27:15 compares contentious woman to constant dripping. While gendered language reflects patriarchal culture, principle applies universally: chronic conflict makes any living situation unbearable.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What relationships or living situations involve constant strife that degrades your quality of life?
2. How might you be the 'contentious' person making others' lives miserable?
3. What changes would cultivate peace in your relationships and living environments?

Interlinear Text

ט וֹב	עַל שֶׁ בֵּית	פִּנֵּת	גַּג	מֵאִשָּׁת	בֶּן דֹּגֵן יִם
It is better	to dwell	in the corner	of the housetop	woman	
H2896	H3427	H5921 H6438	H1406	H802	H4066
וּבֵית	חֶבֶר:				
house	and in a wide				
H1004	H2267				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:19 (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Proverbs 21:9 (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Proverbs 19:13 (Parallel theme): A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.