

Proverbs 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Analysis

Do you see someone wise in their own eyes? There's more hope for a fool than for them. The Hebrew 'chakam be`eynayv' (wise in own eyes) describes self-deception. Fools may lack knowledge but can potentially learn. Self-deceived people convinced of their wisdom cannot learn - they reject instruction because they think they know better. This worst form of foolishness: unteachable pride. Proverbs 3:7 warns: 'Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.'

Historical Context

Scripture consistently identifies pride as the greatest sin and greatest obstacle to growth. 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble' (James 4:6). Jesus condemned Pharisees for this exact failing: 'If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth' (John 9:41). Admission of ignorance enables learning; confident self-deception prevents it.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you 'wise in your own eyes' - confident you're right despite evidence otherwise?
2. How does self-deception prevent growth that acknowledged ignorance would enable?
3. What humility would make you teachable in areas you currently consider yourself expert?

Interlinear Text

רָא יָתְ	אַ יִשׁ	חָכָם	בְּעֵינָיו	תִּקְוָה	לְכֹס יֵל
Seest	thou a man	wise	in his own conceit	there is more hope	of a fool
H7200	H376	H2450	H5869	H8615	H3684
מִמֶּנּוּ:					
H4480					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:20 (Hope): Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 28:11 (Parallel theme): The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

Romans 12:16 (Parallel theme): Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Revelation 3:17 (Parallel theme): Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Proverbs 26:5 (Parallel theme): Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Matthew 21:31 (Parallel theme): Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Proverbs 22:29 (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Proverbs 3:7 (Parallel theme): Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 26:16 (Parallel theme): The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

Luke 7:44 (Parallel theme): And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.