

Proverbs 26:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

Analysis

Like legs that hang limp, so is a proverb in a fool's mouth. The Hebrew 'dalag shokayim' (legs of lame) creates imagery of useless limbs. Lame person's legs don't function for their purpose. Similarly, proverbs in fool's mouth don't function properly - wisdom becomes worthless through misapplication. Knowing right words but applying them wrongly is useless. Wisdom requires both knowing truth and applying it appropriately. Fools may quote proverbs but live foolishly.

Historical Context

Throughout Scripture, knowing truth without living it proves worthless. James 1:22-24 warns: 'Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.' Jesus condemned Pharisees for saying but not doing (Matthew 23:3). Proverbs aren't magic incantations but require wise application. Fools can memorize and quote wisdom while living foolishly, rendering knowledge useless.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What biblical wisdom do you know intellectually but fail to apply practically?
2. How does knowledge without application resemble lame legs - possessing something useless?
3. What changes would make your knowledge functional rather than merely decorative?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	שׁ קַיִם	מַפְסֵד הֵם	וּמִשָּׁל	בֶּפֶה	כְּסִילִים:
are not equal	The legs	of the lame	so is a parable	in the mouth	of fools
H1809	H7785	H6455	H4912	H6310	H3684

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:9 (Parallel theme): As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

Psalms 64:8 (Parallel theme): So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away.

Proverbs 17:7 (Parallel theme): Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.