

Proverbs 27:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Analysis

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike—The Hebrew *deled tôrêd* (דֶּלֶד טֹרֵד, continual dropping) describes relentless dripping through a leaky roof. **Contentious** (*midyānîm*, מִדְּיָנִים) means quarrelsome, argumentative. The comparison is to constant irritation that wears down patience and makes home unbearable.

This is the second of three proverbs about contentious women (19:13, 21:9, 27:15-16), emphasizing the destructive power of chronic conflict in marriage. While gender-specific in expression, the principle applies to any habitually quarrelsome person (26:21). The New Testament calls for gentle, peaceful relationships (1 Peter 3:1-4, Ephesians 4:31-32).

Historical Context

Palestinian homes had flat roofs of clay and straw that could develop leaks during rainy season. The constant dripping would be maddening, disrupting sleep and daily activities. Ancient wisdom literature across cultures warned about domestic strife destroying household peace.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What patterns of criticism or complaining in your relationships create the 'dripping' effect that wears others down?
2. How can a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4) counteract tendencies toward contentiousness?
3. If you're experiencing this dynamic in marriage, what biblical steps toward peace and reconciliation can you take?

Interlinear Text

דָּלֵף	ט וִרְדֹּ	בִּי וּם	סֶגֶר יֵר	וְאִשָּׁת	מִדֹּוֹג יִם	נִשְׁתָּוָה:
dropping	A continual	day	in a very rainy	woman	H4066	are alike
H1812	H2956	H3117	H5464	H802		H7737

Additional Cross-References

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

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

Proverbs 25:24 (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.