

Proverbs 27:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

Analysis

A stone and sand are heavy, but 'a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.' The Hebrew 'kobed' (heavy/weighty) describes burden. A fool's anger creates disproportionate problems exceeding physical weights. Foolish wrath is unreasonable, prolonged, and destructive. Reformed theology recognizes anger's danger—'the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God' (James 1:20). While righteous indignation exists, the fool's rage is sinful, crushing relationships and peace. Wisdom requires controlling anger; folly lets it control you.

Historical Context

Stone and sand were common heavy burdens in construction and agriculture. Everyone understood the exhausting weight of these materials, making them effective metaphors for the crushing burden of dealing with foolish anger.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Is your anger controlled and righteous, or foolish and destructive?

2. How do you experience the 'heavy burden' of others' foolish wrath?
3. What practices help you avoid foolish anger and cultivate Spirit-controlled responses?

Interlinear Text

כַּי־דָּאַיְלָהּ בְּכָבֵד
is heavy A stone weighty and the sand wrath but a fool's is heavier
H3514 H68 H5192 H2344 H3708 H191 H3515

מִשְׁנִיהם֙
than them both
H8147

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 17:12 (Parallel theme): Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

Daniel 3:19 (Parallel theme): Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.