

Proverbs 28:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

Analysis

Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son—The verb natsar (to keep, guard, preserve) suggests active protection of torah (instruction, law). A **wise son** (ben mevin, understanding son) brings honor to his family through covenant obedience.

The contrast is stark: **he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father**. The Hebrew zolel (riotous, glutton) appears in Deuteronomy 21:20 describing a rebellious son worthy of capital punishment. Such associations corrupt character (1 Corinthians 15:33: 'Evil communications corrupt good manners'). The shame (yaklim) brought upon the father reflects dishonor to the family name and covenant heritage.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, family honor was paramount. A son's behavior reflected on the entire household's reputation. The 'riotous men' (gluttonous revelers) represented those who rejected wisdom's discipline for sensual indulgence. Torah-keeping marked covenant identity and faithfulness to Yahweh.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does your lifestyle honor or shame the spiritual heritage you've received?
2. What 'riotous' influences or relationships might be compromising your wisdom and testimony?
3. In what ways does Christ-like obedience demonstrate true wisdom to a watching world?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּל יָמִין	וְרֹעֶה	נֹצֵר	תָּוָהָה	מְבִין	בֶּן	וְאֵלֶּל יָמִין
Whoso keepeth	the law	son	is a wise	but he	that is a companion	of riotous
H5341	H8451	H1121	H995		H7462	H2151
אָבִיו:	וְכָל יָמִין					
men shameth	his father					
H3637	H1					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:3 (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.