

Proverbs 29:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Analysis

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest—(לִסְרֵר בְּתָךְ וַיִּתְּחַקֵּב) the imperative yaser means discipline, chasten, correct. The result is rest (vinicheka)—peace, quietness, relief from anxiety. An undisciplined child produces parental turmoil; a corrected child brings tranquility. **Yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul** (וַיַּתְּבִּחַר) —he will provide delights (ma'adanim, pleasures, dainties) to your soul.

This reverses verse 15's shame. Faithful discipline yields multi-generational blessing—the joy of seeing children walk in wisdom. John echoed this: 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth' (3 John 1:4). The investment of correction produces the harvest of delight. Conversely, Eli's failure to correct his sons resulted in catastrophic grief (1 Samuel 4).

Historical Context

Israelite parenting viewed child-rearing as covenant responsibility—raising the next generation to fear YHWH and walk in Torah. Parental authority was backed by community and religious expectation. The proverb promises that faithful correction, though difficult, produces both social stability (rest) and personal satisfaction (delight) for parents.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of 'rest' and 'delight' motivate you to engage in the difficult work of correction and discipline?
2. What changes when you view discipline not as punishment but as investment in future joy?
3. How have you experienced either the rest that comes from faithful correction or the turmoil that comes from neglecting it?

Interlinear Text

מְעִילָה יְמִים	וְיִתְּחַנֵּן	בְּנֵבֶל	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי רֵישׁ
Correct	thy son	and he shall give thee rest	yea he shall give	delight
H3256	H1121	H5117	H5414	H4574

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:15 (Parallel theme): The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 13:24 (Parallel theme): He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 10:1 (Parallel theme): The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 19:18 (Parallel theme): Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 22:15 (Parallel theme): Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

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