

Proverbs 29:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Analysis

An angry man stirreth up strife—The ish af (man of anger) literally 'a man of nostrils' (Hebrew idiom for wrath) actively instigates madon (strife, contention). The causative verb indicates he doesn't merely participate in conflict—he generates it.

Furthermore, **a furious man aboundeth in transgression**. The ba'al chemah (master of fury, hot-tempered man) multiplies pesha (transgression, rebellion). Uncontrolled anger doesn't stop at one sin; it cascades into multiple violations. Proverbs 14:29: 'He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.' Ephesians 4:26 counsels: 'Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.'

Historical Context

Israel's history shows anger's destructive consequences: Moses's anger cost him entrance to Canaan (Numbers 20:10-12), Saul's fury endangered David (1 Samuel 20), Jonah's anger blinded him to God's mercy (Jonah 4). Ancient wisdom recognized that unchecked wrath destabilizes communities and families.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What triggers your anger, and how do you typically respond?
2. Can you identify times when anger led you into multiple subsequent sins?
3. How does cultivating patience and forbearance prevent the 'stirring up' of unnecessary conflict?

Interlinear Text

אִישׁ	אֵף	יִגְדֵּה	מַדּוֹן	וְעַל	חֵמָה	רַב
man	An angry	stirreth up	strife	man	and a furious	aboundeth in
H376	H639	H1624	H4066	H1167	H2534	H7227
פְּשָׁעַ:						
transgression						
H6588						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:18 (Parallel theme): A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 17:19 (Sin): He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.

Proverbs 10:12 (Sin): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Proverbs 26:21 (Parallel theme): As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Proverbs 22:24 (Parallel theme): Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Proverbs 14:17 (Parallel theme): He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

James 3:16 (Parallel theme): For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

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