

Proverbs 30:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Analysis

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother—Agur shifts to 'four generations' (vv. 11-14) describing moral degradation. *Dōr* (דָּר, generation) can mean age-group or type of people. *Qālal* (קָלַל, curseth) means despise, treat with contempt—direct violation of the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12). Refusing to **bless** (*bārak*, בָּרָךְ) is passive dishonor.

Parental honor is foundational to biblical morality—the first commandment with a promise (Ephesians 6:2). Its breakdown signals societal collapse. Paul lists disobedience to parents among end-times sins (2 Timothy 3:2). Jesus condemned Pharisees who used religious loopholes to avoid honoring parents (Mark 7:9-13).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's fifth commandment carried the death penalty for striking or cursing parents (Exodus 21:15, 17), showing how seriously God takes filial honor. The extended family structure made parental respect essential for social cohesion. Agur observes a generation abandoning this foundation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you honor your parents practically, even when disagreeing with them or dealing with their failures?
2. In what ways does contemporary culture encourage dishonoring parents, and how do you resist this?
3. How does Christ's perfect honor of His Father provide both model and motivation for honoring parents?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁוֹת וְרֹאשׁוֹת אָבִיו לְקַרְבֵּן לְאַתְּ אָמֵן לְאַתְּ
There is a generation their father that curseth their mother H3808
H1755 H1 H853 H517
בְּרַכָּה: וְרַכָּה:
and doth not bless H1288

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:20 (Curse): Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Proverbs 30:17 (Parallel theme): The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Exodus 21:17 (Curse): And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

Deuteronomy 27:16 (Curse): Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Leviticus 20:9 (Curse): For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.

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