

Proverbs 31:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

Analysis

The mother's threefold address—"What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?"—emphasizes urgency and affection. The Hebrew 'bar bitni' (son of my womb) and 'bar nedarai' (son of my vows) express deep personal investment. She had prayed for this son and dedicated him to God. This echoes Hannah dedicating Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11). Reformed theology values dedicating children to God and raising them in covenant faith. Parental vows create accountability to raise children for God's purposes.

Historical Context

Vowing children to God was common in Israel (Judges 11:30-31, 1 Samuel 1:11). These vows created sacred obligations to raise children according to covenant stipulations.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Have you dedicated children or yourself to God, and are you faithful to those vows?
2. What does raising children as 'children of vows' look like practically?
3. How should awareness of God's claim on our children shape parenting?

Interlinear Text

מָה	בֶּר	וּמָה	בֶּר	בְּטֶנִי י	וּמָה	בֶּר
H4100	What my son	H4100	What my son	of my womb	H4100	What my son
	H1248		H1248	H990		H1248
נִדְרֵי:						
of my vows						
H5088						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:15 (Parallel theme): Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

1 Samuel 1:11 (Parallel theme): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.