

Proverbs 8:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Analysis

Hear instruction and be wise; don't neglect it. The Hebrew 'shama' (hear/obey) and 'para' (neglect/ignore) present binary choice. After celebrating wisdom's eternal nature and creative participation, the application is urgent: hear and obey! The implication: rejecting such wisdom is catastrophic folly. When God Himself offers wisdom that precedes and creates all reality, only fools ignore it.

Historical Context

Moses similarly concluded law-giving with urgent call to obedience: 'I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life' (Deuteronomy 30:19). Joshua challenged Israel: 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve' (Joshua 24:15). The pattern throughout Scripture: revelation demands response; truth requires obedience.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What instruction from God are you currently neglecting despite knowing its truth?
2. How does wisdom's divine origin intensify the urgency of obeying it?
3. What would immediate, full obedience to biblical wisdom require in your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

תִּשְׁמַע אֶל־מִזְבֵּחַ מִזְבֵּחַ וְלֹא תַּשְׁמַע אֶל־תְּפִלּוֹת
Hear instruction and be wise and refuse
H8085 H4148 H2449 H408 H6544

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Proverbs 5:1 (Parallel theme): My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

Proverbs 1:8 (Parallel theme): My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Proverbs 1:21 (Parallel theme): She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,