

# Proverbs 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

## Analysis

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Each person bears individual responsibility for their response to wisdom. Being wise benefits oneself, while scorning brings self-inflicted harm. This personal accountability before God refutes both deterministic fatalism and the notion that sin harms only others—we each answer for our own choices.

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel 18 emphasizes individual responsibility before God, countering the proverb about fathers eating sour grapes. Each generation and person must personally appropriate or reject wisdom.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing personal responsibility affect your response to God's wisdom?
2. What consequences have you experienced from either receiving or rejecting wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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לְבָדָק אַמְתָּה כִּי מִתְּבָדֵא לֹא לְצַדְקָה  
H518 If thou be wise H2449 If thou be wise H0 for thyself but if thou scornest H905 H3887

אַתָּה שְׁאֵל:

thou alone shalt bear

H5375

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 22:21** (Parallel theme): Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

**Ezekiel 18:20** (Parallel theme): The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

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