

# Job 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.

## Analysis

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**The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down**—Bildad describes the wicked's self-destruction using legal and martial language. Tsa'adei (צֵאֵדַי, 'steps') suggests both military march and life journey; ono (אָנוֹ, 'his strength') implies vigor and capability. The verb yetsar (יִצַּר, 'shall be straitened/confined') pictures space collapsing, options disappearing—life's possibilities shrinking to nothing.

'Atzato (אֶצָּטוֹ, 'his own counsel') throwing him down (tashlichehu, תַּשְׁלִיכֵהוּ) invokes Proverbs' warnings that the wicked's schemes backfire (Proverbs 1:18-19, 5:22). This is true—sin does destroy the sinner. But Bildad's logic fails: not all destruction proves sin. Job's confined steps result from Satan's attack, not moral failure. True theology wrongly applied produces false witness.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wisdom literature emphasized that evil schemes ultimately destroy their perpetrators—a principle visible in stories of Haman (Esther 7:10) and Absalom (2 Samuel 18:9-15). Bildad correctly identifies the pattern but wrongly diagnoses Job's case, showing that knowing true principles doesn't guarantee right application.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. When have you seen someone's genuine suffering wrongly interpreted as divine punishment for their 'counsel'?
2. How do you avoid Bildad's error of making suffering itself proof of sin?
3. What's the difference between acknowledging that sin destroys and claiming all destruction proves sin?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיִצְרֹן	צִעְדֵּי י	אֹנֹ ו	וְתִשְׁלִיכֵ הוּ
shall be straitened	The steps	of his strength	shall cast him down
H3334	H6806	H202	H7993
וּצְדָתוֹ:			
and his own counsel			
H6098			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 4:12** (Parallel theme): When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

**Psalms 18:36** (Parallel theme): Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.