

Job 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

Analysis

'For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.' Bildad describes the wicked's self-destruction: 'cast into a net' (בָּרְשַׁת, bereshet) by his 'own feet' (בְּרַגְלֵי, beragleyv), walking into 'snare' (שְׁבָקָה, sevakhah). The imagery: the wicked trap themselves. This reflects Proverbs 5:22, 11:5—sin's consequences are self-inflicted. The theology is sound: sin has natural consequences. Applied to Job, it's cruel—suggesting Job's suffering is self-inflicted punishment. This blames victims, assuming all calamity results from personal moral failure. Jesus explicitly rejects this (John 9:3). The Reformed doctrine of depravity and consequences applies generally but shouldn't be weaponized against individuals without evidence.

Historical Context

Ancient hunting used nets and snares. Bildad employs this imagery to argue the wicked engineer their own downfall through sin, a common wisdom theme he wrongly applies to Job.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we affirm sin's natural consequences without blaming all sufferers for their pain?
2. What is the relationship between moral choices and life circumstances?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:15 (Parallel theme): The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

Job 22:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;

Psalms 35:8 (Parallel theme): Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

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