

Proverbs 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk
privily for the innocent without cause:

Analysis

Wisdom personified quotes the enticement of sinners: 'Come with us, let us lay wait for blood.' This reveals sin's communal nature—evil loves company and recruits accomplices. The graphic 'lay wait for blood' exposes violence underlying greed. Sin presents itself attractively ('come with us') while concealing its murderous reality. The Reformed understanding recognizes total depravity makes humans naturally susceptible to such invitations apart from grace. Resist the first step; sin's path leads to bloodshed.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern society struggled with banditry and violent gangs exploiting trade routes. Solomon's wisdom addressed real threats facing young men in urban centers. The phrase 'lay wait' describes ambush tactics used by thieves against travelers. This proverb warned against organized crime's appeal to unemployed youth seeking quick wealth. The counsel remains relevant across cultures and centuries.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does sin's communal appeal ('come with us') reveal Satan's strategy of making evil seem normal through group participation?
2. What does the violent endpoint of seemingly attractive sin teach us about evaluating choices by their ultimate consequences?

Interlinear Text

אִם	הַיְאֵרְבָּה	לְקַרְבָּה	אַתְּ נָאָתָה	יָאָמָרְתָּ	אָמָרְתָּ
H518	If they say	H1980	H854	with us let us lay wait	for blood
	H559			H693	H1818
					H6845
לְקַרְבָּה	לְקַרְבָּה				
privily for the innocent	without cause				
H5355	H2600				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:18 (Blood): And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Jeremiah 5:26 (Parallel theme): For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.

Proverbs 12:6 (Blood): The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.