

Proverbs 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Analysis

The enticement continues with vivid imagery: 'swallow them up alive as the grave.' This compares victims to those going down alive into Sheol, emphasizing sudden, complete destruction. The phrase 'whole, as those that go down into the pit' pictures violent death's totality. This exposes greed's insatiable appetite—it consumes victims entirely. The imagery prefigures Hell's eternal destruction, showing temporal sin reflects eternal realities. Unrepentant greed leads to the ultimate pit.

Historical Context

The 'grave' (Sheol) in Hebrew thought represented the realm of the dead, often pictured as a pit or consuming mouth. References to going down 'alive' may allude to Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:30-33) where earth swallowed rebels alive. This catastrophic judgment became proverbial for sudden, total destruction. Ancient readers would immediately recognize the theological overtones of divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the grave/pit imagery remind us that temporal sin has eternal consequences?
2. What does the complete consumption metaphor teach us about sin's insatiable nature—it's never satisfied?

Interlinear Text

נִבְלָעִם	כְּשֶׁא וּלְ	חַיִּים	וּתְמִימִים	כִּי וְרִדִּי
Let us swallow them up	as the grave	alive	and whole	as those that go down
H1104	H7585	H2416	H8549	H3381
בֹּרַי:				
into the pit				
H953				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 28:1 (Parallel theme): Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

Psalms 124:3 (Parallel theme): Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

Romans 3:13 (Parallel theme): Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: