

Proverbs 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

Analysis

The proverb about spreading nets in birds' sight illustrates the folly of pursuing obvious traps. Birds avoid visible nets; yet sinners rush into evident dangers, blinded by greed and passion. The verse exposes sin's irrational nature - it makes people stupid, ignoring clear warnings of consequences. This demonstrates depravity's intellectual dimension - sin darkens understanding, making people embrace their own destruction despite abundant warning.

Historical Context

Reflects common hunting practice of netting birds, which required concealment for success. Applied metaphorically to thieves' self-deception - they see others' downfall yet assume they'll escape similar consequences.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What obvious 'nets' are you walking toward despite seeing others trapped by similar choices?
2. How does sin blind your judgment to consequences you readily recognize in others' lives?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְנָם	הַמִּזְרָה	הַרְשֵׁת	בְּעֵינַי	כָּל	בְּעַל	כָּנָף:
H3588	Surely in vain H2600	is spread H2219	the net H7568	in the sight H5869	H3605	of any bird H1167	H3671

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 7:23 (Parallel theme): Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

Job 35:11 (Parallel theme): Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?

Jeremiah 8:7 (Parallel theme): Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.