

Proverbs 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Analysis

Wisdom's response to rejection: 'I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.' This shocking language describes divine response to persistent rebellion. God's 'laughter' represents judicial contempt for those who scorned His warnings. The 'mock' parallels their mockery of wisdom. This reflects *lex talionis*: as they treated wisdom, so wisdom treats them. This isn't capricious cruelty but just recompense. Those who laugh at God's ways will find God laughing at their consequent ruin.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern juridical language included mockery of condemned criminals. This reflects justice's public vindication—wrong is exposed and righteousness validated. The concept appears in Psalm 2:4 where God laughs at rebellious kings. This isn't petty revenge but sovereign contempt for human rebellion. Historical judgments demonstrate this principle—empires that mocked God (Assyria, Babylon, Rome) fell, validating divine justice.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's laughter at calamity challenge sentimentalized views of divine love that ignore His justice?
2. What does this teach us about the serious consequences of mocking God's ways?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	אָנָּי	בְּאִידְךָ מָ	אָשָׁחַ לִ	אָלַעַג	בְּבָא	פָּחָדְכֶם:
H1571	H589	at your calamity	I also will laugh	I will mock	cometh	when your fear

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 2:4 (Parallel theme): He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psalms 37:13 (Parallel theme): The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Proverbs 10:24 (Parallel theme): The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

Proverbs 6:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

Luke 14:24 (Parallel theme): For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Judges 10:14 (Parallel theme): Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.