

Proverbs 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Analysis

Wisdom describes the scope of coming judgment: 'When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.' The imagery escalates—desolation (complete waste), whirlwind (unstoppable force), distress and anguish (psychological torment). This comprehensive description shows judgment's totality. The temporal fulfillment warns of eternal judgment. God's patience endures long, but spurned grace ultimately yields wrath. The certainty ('when,' not 'if') emphasizes judgment's inevitability for persistent rejection.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern experience with military conquest, natural disasters (drought, earthquake, flood), and social collapse provided vivid imagery for divine judgment. Whirlwinds in Palestine were violent desert storms that destroyed crops and structures. Desolation referred to cities left uninhabited after conquest. These temporal judgments foreshadowed eschatological realities—Hell as ultimate desolation and distress.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of judgment ('when') challenge modern assumptions that God's patience means judgment won't come?
2. What does the comprehensive nature of judgment warn us about trivializing sin's ultimate consequences?

Interlinear Text

בָּבֹא	כְּשֶׁאֵל וְהָאֵל	פְּחָדְךָ	וְאַיִדְכֶם	כְּסוּפֵה	וְאֵתֵה
cometh	H7584	When your fear	and your destruction	as a whirlwind	cometh
H935		H6343	H343	H5492	H857
בָּבֹא	עַל־לִיכָּ	צָרֵה	וְצוּקָה:		
cometh	H5921	when distress	and anguish		
H935		H6869	H6695		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 2:9 (Parallel theme): Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Nahum 1:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.