

Proverbs 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Analysis

The harvest of rejection: 'Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.' The agricultural metaphor shows that choices produce corresponding consequences. 'Eat... fruit' pictures consuming the results of one's actions. 'Filled' suggests inescapable saturation in consequences. 'Their own' emphasizes self-inflicted nature of judgment. This reflects Galatians 6:7—what one sows, one reaps. God's justice gives people the full measure of their chosen path. Autonomous wisdom, pursued, brings its inevitable bitter fruit.

Historical Context

Ancient agricultural societies understood sowing and reaping intimately. The metaphor appears throughout Scripture (Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7). Israel's history demonstrated national-scale reaping: idolatry produced exile, covenant faithfulness produced blessing. Individual and corporate consequences follow moral choices. The principle transcends cultures—natural law built into creation ensures actions produce fitting consequences, both temporally and eternally.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does eating the fruit of one's own way demonstrate that judgment isn't arbitrary punishment but natural consequence?
2. What does being 'filled' with one's own devices teach us about judgment giving the full measure of chosen folly?

Interlinear Text

וְאָכְלָה

מְפֻרָה

דֶּרֶךְ

מִמְעָצָה

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way with their own devices

H398

H6529

H1870

H4156

שְׁבָעוּ!

and be filled

H7646

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:14 (Parallel theme): The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

Job 4:8 (Parallel theme): Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

Proverbs 22:8 (Parallel theme): He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Jeremiah 6:19 (Parallel theme): Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Jeremiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

