

Proverbs 1:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Analysis

The turning away (meshuvah - apostasy, backsliding) of the simple slays them, and the prosperity (shalvah - ease, carelessness) of fools destroys them. Success without wisdom proves fatal - prosperity breeds complacency, which breeds destruction. This paradox warns that worldly success can be spiritually lethal, producing false security that prevents seeking God. Reformed theology recognizes prosperity as potential snare; only grace prevents success from producing spiritual ruin.

Historical Context

Reflects the pattern seen throughout Israel's history - prosperity led to complacency, which led to idolatry and covenant violation. The judges cycle repeatedly demonstrated this principle.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How has prosperity or ease made you spiritually complacent rather than grateful?
2. What safeguards protect you from allowing success to distance you from dependence on God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תָּשׁוּבָה	פְּתִי	תִּהְרֹג	וְשָׁלוֹם
H3588	For the turning away	of the simple	shall slay	them and the prosperity
	H4878	H6612	H2026	H7962
כְּסִילִים	תִּאַבְּדֵם:			
of fools	shall destroy			
H3684	H6			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Proverbs 8:36 (Parallel theme): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

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.

John 3:36 (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.