

Proverbs 10:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Analysis

The way of YHWH is strength to the upright, but destruction shall be to workers of iniquity. God's way provides strength and refuge to the faithful while bringing ruin to the wicked. This verse presents the same reality - God's ways - producing opposite effects on different people based on their moral orientation. What strengthens the righteous destroys the wicked. This principle explains how the same gospel saves some and hardens others (2 Cor 2:15-16).

Historical Context

Reflects covenant theology where God's commands were life to the obedient but curse to the disobedient. The same law brought blessing or curse depending on response.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Are you experiencing God's ways as strength or as destruction in your life?
2. What determines whether divine truth strengthens or destroys you?

Interlinear Text

רָאשָׁת	לְתִמְךָ	לְדָרֶךָ	לְהַלְלָה	לְמַחְטָה
is strength	to the upright	The way	of the LORD	but destruction
H4581	H8537	H1870	H3068	H4288

אֵין לְפָנֵי עֲבָדִים
shall be to the workers of iniquity

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:15 (Sin): It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Isaiah 40:31 (References Lord): But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalms 36:12 (Sin): There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

Psalms 92:7 (Sin): When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

Psalms 84:7 (Parallel theme): They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

Psalms 37:20 (References Lord): But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Zechariah 10:12 (References Lord): And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

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