

Proverbs 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Analysis

Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished; but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered. Even united wickedness can't escape judgment - conspiracies don't provide protection from divine justice. In contrast, the righteous's descendants will be delivered. This verse promises both comprehensive judgment on evil and comprehensive blessing on righteousness, extending to future generations.

Historical Context

The imagery of hand joining hand suggests conspiracy or solemn agreement. Yet even unified wickedness can't escape divine judgment, while righteousness's blessing extends generationally.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What wickedness are you participating in with others that you assume will escape consequences?

2. How does your righteousness or wickedness affect your descendants' spiritual welfare?

Interlinear Text

לְ יָד	לְ יָד	לֹא	אָמֵן	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד
Though hand	Though hand	H3808	shall not be unpunished	the wicked	but the seed
H3027	H3027		H5352	H7451	H2233
מִתְּמֻלָּת	מִתְּמֻלָּת				
of the righteous	shall be delivered	H4422			
H6662					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:39 (Parallel theme): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Jeremiah 32:39 (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Proverbs 16:5 (Parallel theme): Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Psalms 37:26 (Parallel theme): He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

Proverbs 13:22 (Righteousness): A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Exodus 23:2 (Evil): Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment: