

Proverbs 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Analysis

Trusting riches brings downfall, but the righteous flourish like green foliage—alive, growing, fruit-bearing. Material security is unstable foundation, while righteousness provides enduring vitality. The branch imagery suggests organic growth and connection to the life-giving vine (John 15:5).

Historical Context

Wealth in ancient world was precarious—war, drought, or political change could erase fortunes instantly. Only righteousness provided lasting security transcending temporal circumstances.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What do you trust for security: wealth or righteousness?

2. How can you cultivate spiritual flourishing rather than merely accumulating possessions?

Interlinear Text

בּוֹטֵי הַ	בְּ עֲשָׂרוֹ	ה וְאֵ	יִפֹּל	! כְּעֵלֶּה הַ	צְדִיקִים
He that trusteth	in his riches	H1931	shall fall	as a branch	but the righteous
H982	H6239		H5307	H5929	H6662
יִפְרֹחַ:					
shall flourish					
H6524					

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:17 (Faith): Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Jeremiah 17:8 (Parallel theme): For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Psalms 1:3 (Parallel theme): And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 62:10 (Faith): Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.