

Proverbs 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth:
much more the wicked and the sinner.

Analysis

Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth; much more the wicked and the sinner. If even the righteous receive recompense (reward or discipline) for their deeds, how much more will the wicked face judgment! The verse uses qal vachomer (light to heavy) reasoning - if lesser case is true, greater case certainly is. Peter quotes this verse (1 Pet 4:17-18), applying it to judgment beginning with God's house.

Historical Context

Concludes Proverbs 11 by emphasizing comprehensive divine justice. No one escapes divine accounting - righteousness receives appropriate reward/discipline; wickedness receives deserved judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does certainty of divine recompense for your actions affect your conduct?
2. If righteous suffer discipline, how should the wicked tremble before coming judgment?

Interlinear Text

הֵן	צַדִּיק	בְּאֶרֶץ	יִשְׁלַם	כִּי	אֵל	רַף
H2005	Behold the righteous	in the earth	shall be recompensed		H637	H3588
	H6662	H776	H7999			
רַשָׁע	וְחַטָּא:					
much more the wicked	and the sinner					
H7563	H2398					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:29 (Evil): For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.

Proverbs 13:21 (Righteousness): Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.