

Proverbs 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

Analysis

The righteousness of the perfect directs his way, but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. Perfect (tamim - complete, blameless) righteousness provides guidance like a compass directing the path. Conversely, wickedness causes self-destruction - 'fall by his own wickedness' emphasizes that evil is self-sabotaging. Righteousness produces flourishing; wickedness produces ruin. The verse refutes the lie that wickedness leads anywhere but destruction.

Historical Context

Continues covenant theology's emphasis on righteousness producing blessing, wickedness producing curse. The principle applied both individually and nationally throughout Israel's history.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How is your character directing your life's path - toward life or toward destruction?
2. In what ways is wickedness currently causing you to fall?

Interlinear Text

וְבַרְשָׁעַת־זֶה רֹאשׁ תְּמִימָן צְדָקָת־
The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way by his own wickedness
H6666 H8549 H3474 H1870 H7564

לֹא־שָׁעַד יְפַלֵּל
shall fall but the wicked
H5307 H7563

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 5:22 (Evil): His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

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