

Proverbs 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

Analysis

A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. Wickedness provides no stable foundation - it cannot establish secure existence. Righteousness provides deep roots ensuring stability against storms. The root imagery emphasizes both invisibility (character) and stability (endurance). What's established by wickedness will fall; what's rooted in righteousness will stand.

Historical Context

Agricultural imagery familiar to ancient Israel - trees with deep roots withstood storms that toppled shallow-rooted plants. Applied to human life, character determines stability.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What are you establishing your life upon - wickedness or righteousness?
2. How deep are your 'roots' in righteous character to withstand life's storms?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יְכַל	אֶת	בְּרֵשֶׁת	וְשָׁרֶם	כִּי
H3808	shall not be established	H3559	A man	H120	by wickedness
				H7562	but the root
				H8328	of the righteous

בַּל	יְמִלּוּט
H1077	shall not be moved

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:25 (Righteousness): As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Ephesians 3:17 (Parallel theme): That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Proverbs 12:12 (Righteousness): The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

Colossians 2:7 (Parallel theme): Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Psalms 15:5 (Parallel theme): He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

1 Samuel 25:33 (Parallel theme): And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.