

Proverbs 16:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

Analysis

A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good. Ish chamas yefat te re'ehu (אִישׁ חָמָס יְפַתֵּח רֵעֶה), a man of violence entices his neighbor). Chamas (חָמָס, violence, wrong, cruelty) characterizes the wicked who patah (פַתֵּח, entice, seduce, deceive) neighbors. Veholikho bederekh lo-tov (וְהוֹלִיכוּ בְדֶרֶךְ לֹא-טוֹב, and leads him in a way not good). The violent lead others astray into evil paths. The proverb warns against both being such people and being seduced by them. Paul warns: "Evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Believers must resist enticement to violence and injustice.

Historical Context

Ancient societies experienced violence—warfare, blood feuds, oppression. Violent people recruited others into their schemes—raiding parties, conspiracies, gangs. Proverbs 1:10-19 warns against being enticed by sinners into violence. Israel's history included violent movements (Absalom's rebellion, Zimri's coup) that seduced followers into destruction. Jesus modeled nonviolent resistance (Matthew 5:38-42, 26:52). Christians embrace peace (Romans 12:18-21).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Are you being enticed by violent people or ideologies toward paths that are not good?
2. How can you resist enticement toward violence, revenge, or injustice in thought, word, and deed?
3. What does Jesus' model of nonviolent love teach about responding to violence and oppression?

Interlinear Text

לֹא בְּקַדְרֵנָה יְהוָה יְפַתֵּח הַמְּסָעָה אֶל יְשָׁעָה
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H376 H2555 H6601 H7453 H1870

בָּזָבָבָן:

that is not good

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Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:26 (Parallel theme): The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

Proverbs 3:31 (Parallel theme): Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

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