

Proverbs 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'shuwb' (return) emphasizes the irreversible consequences of adultery. While forgiveness is possible, the practical devastation remains - broken families, destroyed trust, lost innocence. The 'paths of life' represent not just physical existence but abundant life characterized by shalom (peace, wholeness). Adultery permanently alters one's life trajectory, illustrating that sin's consequences extend beyond momentary pleasure to lifelong impact.

Historical Context

Mosaic Law prescribed death for adultery (Leviticus 20:10), demonstrating its covenant-breaking severity. Though David was forgiven for adultery with Bathsheba, consequences plagued his household perpetually (2 Samuel 12:10-14), exemplifying this proverb's warning.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How should the irreversible consequences of sin motivate present obedience?

2. What safeguards can protect you from paths that promise pleasure but deliver permanent loss?
3. How does God's forgiveness coexist with enduring consequences of sin?

Interlinear Text

כָּל <small>H3605</small> None that go <small>H935</small>	בְּ אֵיָהּ <small>H3808</small> unto her return again <small>H7725</small>	לֹא <small>H3808</small> neither take they hold <small>H5381</small>
חַיִּים: אֶחָד וְאֶחָד of the paths of life <small>H734 H2416</small>		

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 7:26 (Parallel theme): And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Psalms 81:12 (Parallel theme): So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.