

Proverbs 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

Analysis

The 'righteous man' here likely refers to God Himself, the ultimately Righteous One who 'wisely considereth the house of the wicked.' God observes the wicked's dwelling—their entire life and household—with perfect knowledge and just judgment. He then 'overthroweth' them in judgment. This assures believers that God sees all wickedness and will certainly judge it. No evil escapes divine notice or escapes ultimate accountability. God's timing may seem slow by human standards, but His justice is certain. This should produce both comfort (God will vindicate the oppressed) and warning (no one evades accountability). The same God who numbers hairs on heads also catalogs every wicked deed for final judgment.

Historical Context

Israel's history repeatedly demonstrated this principle: wicked houses (Ahab, Jeroboam) fell under divine judgment while God preserved the righteous remnant.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you trust that God sees and will judge all wickedness, or are you tempted to take matters into your own hands?
2. How should knowing God observes your household affect your behavior behind closed doors?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁכָּב יֵל	צַדִּיק	לֵב יֵת	רָשָׁע יִם
man wisely considereth	The righteous	the house	of the wicked
H7919	H6662	H1004	H7563
מִסֵּלָהּ	רָשָׁע יִם	לְרָעָה:	
but God overthroweth	of the wicked	for their wickedness	
H5557	H7563	H7451	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:11 (Evil): The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

Psalms 52:5 (References God): God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

Psalms 107:43 (Parallel theme): Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

Job 5:3 (Parallel theme): I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.

Proverbs 14:32 (Righteousness): The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

1 Corinthians 10:5 (References God): But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Amos 4:11 (References God): I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

Job 8:15 (Parallel theme): He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.

Proverbs 13:6 (Righteousness): Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

Genesis 19:29 (References God): And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

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