

Proverbs 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

Analysis

The wicked's violence 'shall destroy them' because they refuse to do judgment. The Hebrew 'shadad' (destroy/devastate) and 'garar' (drag away) suggest being swept away by consequences of their own violence. Reformed theology's doctrine of God's justice affirms that sin carries intrinsic consequences. Those who live by the sword die by it (Matthew 26:52). The wicked's refusal to practice justice ('mishpat') results in being destroyed by their own injustice. This is both natural consequence and divine judgment.

Historical Context

Israel's history showed violent rulers brought down by violence—Absalom's rebellion against David, Zimri's assassination and quick demise, and foreign invasions resulting from covenant unfaithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you see violence and injustice bringing consequences upon those who practice them?
2. In what ways might you be sowing seeds of violence or injustice that will yield destructive harvests?
3. What does it mean to 'do judgment' in your sphere of influence?

Interlinear Text

שָׁד	רָשָׁעִים	יְגוֹרֵם	כִּי	לֹא יִלְעָשׂוּ	לַעֲשׂוֹת
The robbery	of the wicked	shall destroy	H3588	them because they refuse	to do
H7701	H7563	H1641		H3985	H6213

מִשְׁפָּט:

judgment
H4941

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:21 (Parallel theme): He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Ephesians 5:6 (Judgment): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.