

Proverbs 24:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

Analysis

'Deliver them that are drawn unto death'—this commands intervening to rescue those facing destruction. Whether literal execution, oppression, or spiritual danger, believers must not stand idle when they can help. The second clause intensifies: 'those that are ready to be slain'—people on death's threshold. This could include false imprisonment, infanticide, human trafficking, or any unjust threat to life. The principle extends spiritually: rescue the perishing through gospel proclamation. Verse 12 anticipates the excuse 'We knew it not'; God knows hearts and will judge our inaction. Love compels action; indifference reveals hard hearts. We're our brother's keepers, responsible to help when we can. Silence and inaction make us complicit.

Historical Context

Israel's law required helping even enemies in danger (Exodus 23:4-5). The good Samaritan parable teaches active love for endangered neighbors. Christians throughout history rescued abandoned infants, opposed slavery, and defended the oppressed.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Who in your sphere of influence is 'drawn unto death' that you could help?
2. What injustices or dangers are you aware of that demand your intervention?

Interlinear Text

לְפָנֶיךָ תִּשְׁלַח יָמִים לְקַרְבָּן יְמִינְךָ וְלְמִינְךָ תִּשְׁלַח יָמִים
to deliver them that are drawn unto death and those that are ready to be slain

H5337

H3947

H4194

H4131

H2027

תִּשְׁאַל תִּשְׁלַח
H518 If thou forbear

H2820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 82:4 (Parallel theme): Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

Job 29:17 (Parallel theme): And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org