

# 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

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'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

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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

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**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

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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

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הַ צֵּל	לְקָח יָם	לְמָוֶת	וּמָטְ יָם	לְהָרֹג
to deliver	them that are drawn	unto death	and those that are ready	to be slain
H5337	H3947	H4194	H4131	H2027

אִם	תִּחְשָׁוּ:
H518	If thou forbear
	H2820

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.