

Proverbs 24:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

Analysis

This verse explains why one should avoid revolutionaries. 'For their calamity shall rise suddenly' /*פִּרְפַּתְתָּם עֲקָם אֵידָם*/ ki-fit'om yaqum eydam, for suddenly their disaster will arise) warns that judgment on rebels comes unexpectedly. 'Who knoweth the ruin of them both?' /*וַיֹּדַע שְׁנֵיכֶם מִי-זֶה עַ*/ ufid sheneyhem mi-yodea, and the ruin of both of them who knows?) The 'both' refers to God and the king—those who rebel against established authority face judgment from both divine and human sources. Revolutionary movements often promise freedom but deliver disaster. History validates this: Absalom's rebellion ended in death (2 Samuel 18:14). Sheba's revolt was crushed (2 Samuel 20:22). Adonijah's attempted coup failed (1 Kings 2:25). In the New Testament, Jewish rebellion against Rome (AD 66-70) resulted in Jerusalem's destruction—exactly as Jesus predicted (Luke 19:41-44; 21:20-24). Revolutionary fervor brought catastrophe. This doesn't prohibit all resistance to tyranny but warns against reckless rebellion.

Historical Context

Israel's history recorded numerous rebellions—against Moses (Numbers 16), against David (2 Samuel 15-20), against Rehoboam (1 Kings 12). Most ended catastrophically. Korah's rebellion resulted in earth swallowing the rebels (Numbers 16:31-35). Absalom died despite his father's love (2 Samuel 18:14). The northern kingdom's rebellion against Rehoboam ultimately led to Assyrian conquest (2 Kings 17). In the intertestamental period, the Maccabean revolt succeeded temporarily but eventually brought Roman domination. First-century

Zealots advocated violent resistance to Rome, culminating in the Jewish War (AD 66-70) that destroyed Jerusalem and the temple—killing over a million Jews. Jesus warned against this path (Matthew 24:15-21). Early Christians generally avoided revolutionary movements, though they suffered persecution for refusing to worship Caesar. Church history shows mixed results from Christian involvement in revolution—some justified (resisting Nazi tyranny), others catastrophic (various religious wars).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between wise reform and reckless revolution?
2. How do you discern when to work within systems versus when to actively resist them?
3. Are there ways you're nurturing discontentment and revolutionary spirit rather than pursuing godly change?

Interlinear Text

בָּאֵת	בְּתָאֵם	וְלֹא	לֹא	אִזְרָעֵל	לְתֹבֵד	שְׁנֵיהם	בְּתָאֵם
H3588	suddenly	H6965	shall rise	H343	For their calamity	H6365	the ruin
	H6597					H8147	H4310

: וְלֹא

and who knoweth

H3045

