

Proverbs 26:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

Analysis

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; whoever rolls a stone, it will return on him. The Hebrew 'karah' (dig) and 'galal' (roll) describe self-defeating plots. Trap meant for others ensnares trapper; stone pushed onto others rolls back. Evil schemes backfire on schemers. This promises justice - those plotting others' destruction ultimately destroy themselves. Psalm 7:15-16 teaches: 'He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.'

Historical Context

Biblical history illustrates this repeatedly. Haman built gallows for Mordecai, was hanged on them himself (Esther 7:9-10). Daniel's accusers threw him in lions' den; they and their families were thrown in instead (Daniel 6:24). Jesus taught: 'With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again' (Matthew 7:2). This principle - reaping what you sow - pervades Scripture. Galatians 6:7: 'Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.'

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'pits' have you dug for others that you might fall into yourself?
2. How has your own scheming backfired, illustrating this principle?
3. What comfort does this promise provide regarding those plotting against you?

Interlinear Text

כָּדָה	שֵׁ חַת	בָּהּ	יִפֹּל	וְגִלְגַּל	אֶבֶן
Whoso diggeth	a pit	H0	shall fall	therein and he that rolleth	a stone
H3738	H7845		H5307	H1556	H68
אֵל יִי	תִּשְׁוֹב:				
H413	it will return				
	H7725				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:10 (Parallel theme): Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.

Psalms 9:15 (Parallel theme): The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

Psalms 10:2 (Parallel theme): The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

Psalms 57:6 (Parallel theme): They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

Ecclesiastes 10:8 (Parallel theme): He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

Esther 7:10 (Parallel theme): So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

