

Proverbs 28:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way—The causative verb form indicates active deception or temptation. Leading the yashar (upright, righteous) into an **evil way** (derek ra) brings severe consequences: **he shall fall himself into his own pit**.

This poetic justice reflects the principle of measure-for-measure judgment. The trap (shachah, pit) prepared for others becomes the deceiver's own downfall—seen in Haman's execution on his own gallows (Esther 7:10) and Psalm 7:15: 'He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.' Meanwhile, **the upright shall have good things in possession** (tov yinchalu, inherit good), demonstrating God's protective justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel faced constant pressure from pagan neighbors to compromise covenant faithfulness. False prophets and corrupt leaders often led people astray. The New Testament warns similarly of those who 'cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine' (Romans 16:17), and Jesus's severe words about offending 'little ones' (Matthew 18:6).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Have you ever been tempted to draw others into compromise or sin? What stopped you?
2. How can you protect yourself from those who would lead you away from righteousness?
3. What 'good things' has God given to sustain you when facing moral pressure or temptation?

Interlinear Text

מִשָּׁנָה ה	יִשָּׁר יָם	בְּדֶרֶךְ	כֹּעַ	
to go astray	Whoso causeth the righteous	way	in an evil	
H7686	H3477	H1870	H7451	
בְּשִׁחוֹתָו	הוא	יִפֹּל וְלֹא	וְתִמְיָם יָם	יִנְחָלוּ
himself into his own pit	H1931	he shall fall	but the upright	things in possession
H7816		H5307	H8549	H5157
טוֹב:				
shall have good				
H2896				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:27 (Parallel theme): Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

Galatians 2:4 (Parallel theme): And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Proverbs 15:6 (Righteousness): In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

Matthew 6:33 (Righteousness): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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