

Proverbs 28:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

Analysis

When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory—The triumph of the tsaddiqim (righteous) brings rab tif'arah (abundant glory, splendor). Public celebration follows covenant faithfulness; the community flourishes when justice prevails.

The antithesis is ominous: **when the wicked rise, a man is hidden**. When the resha'im (wicked) ascend to power, yechupas adam (a man is searched out/hidden). The righteous go into hiding, concealing themselves from oppression. This pattern repeats throughout history—Elijah fleeing Jezebel (1 Kings 19), David hiding from Saul, believers during persecution. Proverbs 28:28 parallels: 'When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.'

Historical Context

Israel experienced this cycle repeatedly: righteous kings like Hezekiah and Josiah brought reformation and rejoicing, while wicked rulers like Manasseh and Ahab drove the faithful underground. The book of Judges shows this pattern (oppression under wickedness, deliverance through righteous judges). Revelation 11:10 depicts the wicked rejoicing when God's witnesses are killed.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the flourishing of righteousness in your community bring 'glory' and public good?
2. When have you witnessed (or experienced) the 'hiding' that comes when wickedness holds power?
3. What responsibility do believers have to resist or endure when wicked leadership rises?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֵל יָ	צַדִּיקִים	בְּהִ	תְּפִאָּה	וְרִקְוָה
men do rejoice	When righteous	there is great	glory	rise
H5970	H6662	H7227	H8597	H6965
בְּשָׁעַת יָם	יִחְפֶּה	אָדָם		
but when the wicked	is hidden	a man		
H7563	H2664	H120		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:2 (Righteousness): When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 11:10 (Righteousness): When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

Proverbs 28:28 (Righteousness): When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

