

Proverbs 29:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

Analysis

In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare (בְּפֶשַׁע אִישׁ רָע מוֹקֵשׁ)—the Hebrew môqēš (snare/trap) depicts sin as self-entrapment. Evil men (אִישׁ רָע, ish ra) become ensnared by their own transgressions (pesha, rebellion against moral order), whereas **the righteous doth sing and rejoice** (יָרֵן וְשָׂמַח, yaron v'sameach). The contrast is stark: wickedness produces bondage, righteousness produces freedom and joy.

This principle echoes throughout Scripture—Psalm 7:15-16 depicts the wicked digging a pit and falling into it themselves. The 'snare' is not external punishment but the inherent consequence of moral rebellion. Paul later affirms this in Galatians 6:7: 'whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.'

Historical Context

Solomon's wisdom literature emphasized the cause-and-effect nature of moral choices in covenant community. Written around 950 BC, these proverbs served as instruction for young men learning statecraft and wisdom. The imagery of snares was familiar from hunting practices and enemy warfare tactics common in ancient Israel.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'snares' have you created through your own moral compromises, and how does repentance offer escape?
2. How does the joy of righteousness contrast with the anxiety and bondage of hidden sin in your life?
3. In what ways do you see self-deception functioning as a 'snare' that keeps people trapped in destructive patterns?

Interlinear Text

בְּפֶשַׁע	אִישׁ	כְּעַ	מוֹקֵשׁ	אֲצִיד יֵקַ	וְיִרְוֹן
In the transgression	man	of an evil	there is a snare	but the righteous	doth sing
H6588	H376	H7451	H4170	H6662	H7442

וְשִׁמְחָה:

H8055

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:12 (Evil): For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Exodus 15:1 (Sin): Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 Timothy 2:26 (Evil): And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Psalms 118:15 (Righteousness): The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

Psalms 97:11 (Righteousness): Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Psalms 11:6 (Evil): Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

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