

# Proverbs 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

## Analysis

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Sin enslaves through accumulated habit—cords binding ever tighter until escape seems impossible. Yet Reformed theology affirms God's sovereign grace can break any bondage. The sinner's self-deception ('his own iniquities shall take the wicked') shows sin's judicial dimension—we are imprisoned by our own choices while needing divine liberation.

## Historical Context

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Imprisonment by cords or ropes was standard practice for captives. Solomon's imagery made viscerally real the spiritual bondage produced by persistent sin and unrepentance.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What habitual sins have created cords of bondage in your life?
2. How have you experienced God's grace breaking the power of entrenched sin?

## Interlinear Text

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עֲוֹנוֹתָיו	יִלְכְּדוּ	אֶת	הַרְשָׁעִים	וּבְחִבְלָיו
His own iniquities	shall take	H853	the wicked	himself and he shall be holden
H5771	H3920		H7563	H8551
וְעִם	חַטָּאתָיו	יִתְמָךְ:		
	of his sins	with the cords		
	H2403	H2256		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**Proverbs 1:18** (Parallel theme): And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

**Proverbs 11:5** (Evil): The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.