

Proverbs 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

Analysis

He follows her suddenly, as an ox to slaughter, as a fool to stocks for correction. The Hebrew 'pitom' (suddenly/instantly) and 'tevach' (slaughter) describe swift movement toward doom. The ox imagery portrays ignorant domesticated animal approaching its death. The fool in stocks awaits punishment. Both illustrations depict foolish movement toward certain destruction. Seduction succeeds by blinding targets to obvious danger.

Historical Context

Ancient animal sacrifice involved leading cattle to slaughter. Oxen, being domesticated and trusting, would follow handlers peacefully to death. Stocks (leg restraints) were used for punishment and public humiliation. The double imagery emphasizes foolishness - like animal lacking reason, like criminal receiving deserved punishment. Sexual sin reduces humans to subrational beasts and merits criminal punishment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What obvious dangers are you ignoring by 'suddenly' following temptation?
2. How does sin reduce you to subrational animal status, bypassing God-given reason?
3. What 'slaughter' (spiritual death, relational destruction) awaits at the end of paths you're following?

Interlinear Text

יבָּא תִּבְחַר אֶל כִּי שׂוֹר פְּתַאֲמָה אֶפְרַיִם הַזְּלָגָה
He goeth after her straightway as an ox H413 to the slaughter goeth
H1980 H310 H6597 H7794 H2874 H935

אָוֶל מִזְרָח וְכַפְרָה
of the stocks to the correction or as a fool
H413 H4148 H191

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:27 (Parallel theme): Thou puttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org