Proverbs 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

Analysis

Till an arrow pierces his liver, as a bird rushes into a snare, not knowing it will cost his life. The Hebrew 'chets' (arrow) and 'pach' (snare/trap) continue destruction imagery. Liver-piercing produces mortal wound. Bird flying into snare seeks food, finds death. Both images emphasize fatal consequences arising from ignorant pursuit of apparent goods. Seduction offers pleasure but delivers death. Fools see bait, not trap.

Historical Context

Ancient hunting involved snares and nets for birds, arrows for larger game. Both methods killed prey that approached seeking benefit (food for bird, apparently safe path for game). This illustrates sin's deceptive nature - it offers good (pleasure, satisfaction) while concealing evil (destruction, death). Romans 6:23 teaches: 'The wages of sin is death.' Sin pays, but its wages destroy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'bait' are you seeing without recognizing the hidden 'snare' behind it?
2. How does understanding sin's deceptive offering of good help you resist temptation?
3. What 'arrows' or 'snares' have you narrowly avoided, and what does this teach you?

Interlinear Text

עַד	חַ לָ פְ	חֵ ץ	כְּבֵד וֹ	כְּמַהֵ ר	צִפּ וֹר	אֶל
H5704	strike	Till a dart	through his liver	hasteth	as a bird	H413
	H6398	H2671	H3516	H4116	H6833	

פָ ח	וְלֹא	יָ דַ ע	כִּי	בְנַפְשׁ וֹ	הוּא:	
to the snare	H3808	and knoweth	H3588	not that it is for his life	H1931	
H6341		H3045		H5315		

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:12 (Parallel theme): 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.

Proverbs 9:18 (Parallel theme): But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.