

Psalms 37:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Analysis

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down (כִּי־יִפֹּל לֹא־יִוָּטֵל, ki-yipol lo-yutal)—the verb yutal (cast headlong) carries violent imagery of being hurled down beyond recovery. The righteous naphal (fall/stumble) but isn't shalak (cast away). **For the LORD upholdeth him with his hand** (כִּי־יָהוָה סוֹמֵךְ יָדוֹ, ki-YHWH somekh yado)—samak (uphold/sustain/support) appears as a participle, indicating continuous action. God's hand perpetually steadies His people.

This verse addresses the Prosperity Gospel heresy: righteousness doesn't prevent falling but ensures restoration. Proverbs 24:16 echoes this: "A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." Jude 24 promises Jesus keeps us from falling, while this verse assures that when we do fall (through weakness, not willful sin), God lifts us up.

Historical Context

David knew repeated failure: adultery with Bathsheba, numbering Israel, family dysfunction. Yet God sustained him through repentance. This verse reflects mature faith that distinguishes stumbling from apostasy, understanding God's grace sustains through moral failure when we return to Him.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does distinguishing between falling (temporary stumbling) and being cast down (final rejection) comfort you in spiritual struggle?
2. When have you experienced God's hand upholding you after a fall—how did He restore you?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יִפֹּל	לֹא	יִטָּל	כִּי	לַיהוָה
H3588	Though he fall	H3808	he shall not be utterly cast down	H3588	for the LORD
	H5307		H2904		H3068
וְיִסְמְךָ	יְהוָה				
upholdeth	him with his hand				
H5564	H3027				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 24:16 (Parallel theme): For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Psalms 145:14 (References Lord): The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

Psalms 94:18 (References Lord): When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Psalms 40:2 (Parallel theme): He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Psalms 37:17 (References Lord): For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

Luke 2:34 (Parallel theme): And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Psalms 91:12 (Parallel theme): They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalms 147:6 (References Lord): The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

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