

Psalms 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.

Analysis

The principle of retributive justice: the wicked trap themselves. The imagery of digging a pit and falling into it appears throughout wisdom literature (Proverbs 26:27, Ecclesiastes 10:8). This isn't karma but God's judicial ordering where sin contains its own judgment. The wicked's schemes ultimately backfire, demonstrating God's justice. Haman's gallows, Pharaoh's sea, and Satan's cross all illustrate this principle. It assures believers that evil will not ultimately triumph.

Historical Context

Pit traps were common hunting methods in ancient Israel. The imagery of falling into one's own trap would be immediately understood. This proverbial truth runs through Scripture - Joseph's brothers, Saul, Absalom all experienced this principle. It demonstrates God's providence in turning evil schemes to His purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Have you seen examples of how sin's consequences trap those who practice it?
2. How does this principle comfort you when facing schemes of enemies?

Interlinear Text

אֵר	כָּרָה	וַחֲפָרָהּ	וְיִפֹּל	בְּשֵׁחַת	יָפְעָל:
a pit	He made	and digged	it and is fallen	into the ditch	which he made
H953	H3738	H2658	H5307	H7845	H6466

Additional Cross-References

Job 4:8 (Parallel theme): Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

Psalms 141:10 (Parallel theme): Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.

Proverbs 26:27 (Parallel theme): Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

Psalms 10:2 (Parallel theme): The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

Psalms 57:6 (Parallel theme): They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

Esther 7:10 (Parallel theme): So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Proverbs 5:22 (Parallel theme): His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Psalms 119:85 (Parallel theme): The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

Psalms 94:13 (Parallel theme): That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.

Jeremiah 18:20 (Parallel theme): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

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