

Psalms 73:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Analysis

Pride adorns the wicked like a chain (jewelry worn proudly), and violence covers them like a garment (clothing worn daily). Their character traits—arrogance and brutality—are displayed openly, not hidden in shame. They're unashamed of qualities Scripture condemns. This moral inversion, where evil is celebrated rather than mourned, marks advanced cultural decay (Isaiah 5:20). Yet God opposes the proud (James 4:6); their pride ensures eventual judgment.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern powerful elites often wore elaborate jewelry and clothing to display status. The psalmist uses this imagery to show the wicked 'wear' pride and violence as public badges of honor rather than shame.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does contemporary culture celebrate pride and violence that Scripture condemns?
2. What areas of pride in your life need to be recognized as shameful rather than displayed?
3. How can you develop humility in a culture that 'wears' pride as an ornament?

Interlinear Text

לִּכְנֹן	עֲנֹךְ תָּמוּ	גִּאֲוָה	יַעֲטֹף
H3651	compasseth them about as a chain	Therefore pride	covereth
	H6059	H1346	H5848
שֶׁם יָת	לָמוֹ: חֲמָס		
them as a garment	violence		
H7897	H2555		H0

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 109:18 (Parallel theme): As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 1:9 (Parallel theme): For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Judges 8:26 (Parallel theme): And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.