

# Romans 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Destruction and misery are in their ways:

## Analysis

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**Destruction and misery are in their ways.** Continuing from Isaiah 59:7, *syntrimma kai talaipōria en tais hodois autōn* (σύντριμμα καὶ ταλαιπωρία ἐν ταῖς ὁδοῖς αὐτῶν, "destruction and misery in their ways"). *Syntrimma* (σύντριμμα) is breaking, crushing, ruin. *Talaipōria* (ταλαιπωρία) is wretchedness, calamity, distress.

Human "ways"—our paths, lifestyles, cultures—are marked by destruction and misery. We don't merely commit occasional violent acts; our entire trajectory produces ruin and suffering. The 20th century alone saw two world wars, totalitarian regimes killing over 100 million, ethnic cleansing, and ecological devastation. This is not historical accident but the inevitable fruit of humanity "under sin" (v. 9). Our ways lead not to flourishing but to catastrophe.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah prophesied against Israel's injustice that created suffering for the poor and oppressed. Paul universalizes this indictment. The Greco-Roman world, despite its philosophical sophistication, was marked by slavery, gladiatorial violence, infanticide, and brutal warfare—as is every human culture.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do you see destruction and misery as inevitable consequences of human "ways" apart from God?
2. What cultural or personal "ways" in your life produce misery rather than shalom?
3. How does the gospel offer a fundamentally different "way" (Acts 9:2, John 14:6)?

## Interlinear Text

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σύντριμα καὶ ταλαιπωρία ἐν ταῖς ὁδοῖς αὐτῶν

**Destruction** **and** **misery** **are in** **ways** **their**  
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