

Isaiah 57:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

Analysis

The observation that 'the righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart' describes society's callous indifference to godly people's suffering. The explanation 'the righteous is taken away from the evil to come' reveals God's mercy in removing His servants before severe judgment. Death for believers is rescue, not punishment - God spares them from coming wrath. This reframes mortality as divine protection.

Historical Context

Before Babylonian invasion, godly King Josiah died in battle (2 Kings 22:20 - 'I will gather thee...that thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place'). His death was mercy, sparing him from seeing Jerusalem's destruction. Same principle explains why godly often die before catastrophic judgments.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that death can be God's mercy (removing righteous from coming evil) change your view of mortality?
2. What does the world's indifference to righteous people perishing reveal about spiritual blindness?

Interlinear Text

הַצְדִּיקִּי:	אָבָד	וְאִין	וְאִנְשִׁי	שׁוּם	עַל	לֵב
The righteous	perisheth	H369	and no man	layeth	H5921	it to heart
H6662	H6		H376	H7760		H3820
וְאִנְשִׁי	חֶסֶד	נֶאֱסָרִים	בְּאִין	מִבִּין	כִּי	מִפְּנֵי
and no man	and merciful	are taken away	H369	none considering	H3588	from
H376	H2617	H622		H995		H6440
הָרָעָה	נֶאֱסָרִים	הַצְדִּיקִּי:				
the evil	are taken away	The righteous				
H7451	H622	H6662				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 22:20 (Evil): Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

Psalms 12:1 (Parallel theme): Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

2 Chronicles 34:28 (Evil): Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

Micah 7:2 (Parallel theme): The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Isaiah 42:25 (Parallel theme): Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.

Isaiah 47:7 (Parallel theme): And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

1 Kings 14:13 (Parallel theme): And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Malachi 2:2 (Parallel theme): If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

2 Chronicles 35:24 (Parallel theme): His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

2 Chronicles 32:33 (Parallel theme): And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.