

# Job 27:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.

## Analysis

**Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.** (יְהִי כַּרְשָׁע אֹיְבִי וּמַתְּקַזְּמָנִי כְּעַל) This imprecatory statement seems shocking until properly understood—Job isn't cursing his enemies to become wicked, but declaring that only the wicked would be his true enemies. The Hebrew construction equates his enemy (oyeb, אֹיְבִ) with the wicked (rasha, רָשָׁע) and the unrighteous (avval, עַל).

Job essentially declares: 'If there is anyone who is truly my enemy, let him prove to be wicked'—meaning that no righteous person has cause to oppose Job, only the wicked. This subtle logic vindicates Job's integrity. The verse connects to imprecatory psalms (Psalm 109, 137) where the righteous call for justice against God's enemies. Reformed theology recognizes these as appeals for divine justice, not personal vengeance—zeal for God's honor and kingdom righteousness, anticipating final judgment when God will vindicate His people and condemn the impenitent.

## Historical Context

Imprecatory prayers appear throughout Ancient Near Eastern literature, but biblical examples always ground themselves in covenant faithfulness and divine justice rather than personal vindictiveness. Job's statement reflects confidence that his cause is just before God, and anyone opposing him opposes righteousness itself—a dangerous claim that God will later both challenge and vindicate.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can we maintain the biblical tension between praying for enemies (Matthew 5:44) and calling for divine justice against God's opponents?
2. What does Job's confidence that only the wicked would oppose him teach about the connection between righteousness and persecution?
3. In what ways do imprecatory prayers reflect zeal for God's kingdom rather than personal revenge?

## Interlinear Text

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וְמִתְקֹרֶב אֵלֶיךָ כִּי רֹשֵׁעַ יִהְיֶה  
H1961 be as the wicked    H7563 Let mine enemy    H341 and he that riseth up

H6965

כְּעֵל:

against me as the unrighteous

H5767

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 4:19** (Parallel theme): Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.