

Proverbs 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Analysis

The promise 'surely there is an end' (or 'surely there is a future') assures believers that God's purposes will prevail. Current circumstances aren't ultimate; hope ('expectation') will be fulfilled. This provides antidote to envy (v. 17) by establishing certainty of future vindication. The wicked's prosperity is temporary; the righteous's reward is certain. God will complete His purposes; believers' hope will not be 'cut off' (disappointed). This doesn't promise earthly prosperity but eternal blessing. The 'end' encompasses both earthly vindication and eternal glory. Believers can endure present hardship by faith that God's promises are sure. Our expectation is not in vain; Christ will return and make all things right.

Historical Context

Israel's prophets repeatedly assured the suffering remnant of coming vindication and restoration. The exile would end; the Messiah would come; God's kingdom would triumph.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you live with confident expectation of future blessing, or are you consumed by present circumstances?
2. How does assurance of God's ultimate purposes provide strength for current trials?

Interlinear Text

ל א תקנְתָב ! ש אַחֲר יִת אָמֵן ! ש H3588 H518 For surely there is an end and thine expectation H3426 H319 H8615 H3808

תפִּרְתָּה:

shall not be cut off

H3772

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:35 (Parallel theme): Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Psalms 9:18 (Parallel theme): For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.

Jeremiah 29:11 (Parallel theme): For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Proverbs 24:14 (Parallel theme): So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Philippians 1:20 (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Psalms 37:37 (Parallel theme): Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

Proverbs 24:20 (Parallel theme): For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Luke 16:25 (Parallel theme): But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

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