

Proverbs 29:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

Analysis

The bloodthirsty hate the upright—(אָנָשִׁים דְּמִים וְשָׁנָא-תָּם) literally 'men of bloods' (anshei damim), those who shed blood violently, hate the blameless (tam, perfect/upright). This isn't mere dislike but visceral hatred (sane). The righteous person's moral integrity is an unbearable rebuke to the violent.

But the just seek his soul (יְשָׁרִים יִבְקְשׁוּ נַפְשׁוֹ)—the upright (yesharim) seek the soul/life of the righteous person, either to preserve it (protective seeking) or the violent seek to destroy it. Most commentators see this as the just seeking to save the upright from bloodthirsty men. This anticipates Christ: 'the world hates you because it hated me first' (John 15:18-19). Abel's blood cried out against Cain; Stephen was stoned by the violent.

Historical Context

David experienced this repeatedly—Saul's murderous jealousy, Absalom's rebellion, Shimei's curses. The righteous king or prophet often faced violent opposition from those whose evil was exposed by moral uprightness. Israel's history is filled with murdered prophets (Matthew 23:37).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the world's hatred of moral uprightness manifest in contemporary culture?
2. When your righteousness provokes hostility, how do you respond without compromise or retaliation?
3. What does it mean for 'the just' to 'seek the soul' of the upright—how do believers protect and support those under attack for their faith?

Interlinear Text

בְּקַשׁ	וְיִשְׁרָם	תִּמְמָה	יְשַׁנָּאוּ	דְּמִים	אַנְשָׁה	בְּפָשׁוֹן
The bloodthirsty	H1818	hate	the upright	but the just	seek	his soul

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