

# 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** (אֲנָשֵׁי דָמִים יִשְׂנְאוּ-רָתִים)—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** (וַיִּשְׁרִים יִבְקֹשׁוּ 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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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אֲנִשׁ י	יִשְׁנְאוּ דְּמִים	תָּם	וְיִשְׁרֵי יָם	יִבְקֹשׁ ו	נַפְשׁוֹ:
<b>The bloodthirsty</b>	<b>hate</b>	<b>the upright</b>	<b>but the just</b>	<b>seek</b>	<b>his soul</b>
H582	H1818 H8130	H8535	H3477	H1245	H5315

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