

# Psalms 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

## Analysis

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**Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.** This verse draws the logical conclusion ("therefore") from the chaff imagery, addressing the eschatological destiny of the ungodly. "Shall not stand" (lo yaqumu, לֹא־יַקְרָב) means unable to rise or maintain position, suggesting both inability to withstand divine judgment and lack of vindication.

"In the judgment" (bamishpat, בָּמִשְׁפָּט) refers to God's evaluative verdict on human lives. The ungodly will not successfully defend themselves or be declared righteous when God examines their lives. This anticipates final judgment while also applying to God's ongoing evaluation of human behavior.

"Congregation of the righteous" (adat tzaddikim, עֲדַת צַדִּיקִים) indicates the assembly of God's people, both present worshiping community and eternal fellowship of believers. Sinners will not have place among the redeemed, emphasizing the ultimate separation between those who follow God and those who reject Him.

## Historical Context

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Jewish worship centered on communal assembly, making exclusion from the congregation a severe judgment. Being unable to "stand" in the assembly meant losing one's place in the covenant community and its blessings. This would have

been particularly meaningful in a culture where community identity was central to personal identity.

The concept of divine judgment runs throughout Old Testament literature, from individual cases like Cain to national judgments like the exile. The psalm assumes a future reckoning where God will vindicate the righteous and condemn the wicked, a hope that sustained believers during times when the wicked seemed to prosper.

The reference to the congregation anticipates the eschatological gathering of God's people, a theme developed in prophetic literature and fulfilled in the New Testament understanding of the church as God's called-out assembly.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How should the certainty of future judgment influence daily decision-making and priorities?
2. What is the relationship between present inclusion in the worshiping community and future vindication in judgment?
3. How can believers maintain confidence in divine justice when observing apparent prosperity of the wicked?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּשְׁעִים רְשָׁעִים לֹא תִּשְׁתַּחַטֵּא יְמִינֵךְ תִּשְׁעִים  
H5921 H3651 H3808 shall not stand Therefore the ungodly in the judgment  
H6965 H7563 H4941

צְדִיקִים: בְּעֵד תִּשְׁעִים יְמִינֵךְ תִּשְׁעִים  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous  
H2400 H5712 H6662

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 5:5** (Sin): The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

**Matthew 25:46** (Righteousness): And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

**Malachi 3:18** (Righteousness): Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

**Matthew 25:41** (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

**Luke 21:36** (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

**Matthew 25:32** (Parallel theme): And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

**Matthew 13:49** (Righteousness): So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

**Psalms 26:9** (Sin): Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

**Jude 1:15** (Judgment): To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

**Psalms 9:16** (Judgment): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

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