

# Psalm 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

## Analysis

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The call to 'break the arm of the wicked' uses the Hebrew metaphor of power ('arm' = zeroa). This is an imprecatory prayer asking God to destroy the wicked's ability to oppress. 'Seek out his wickedness till you find none' requests thorough judgment. Reformed theology understands such prayers as appeals to divine justice, not personal vengeance—they trust God as the righteous Judge.

## Historical Context

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Imprecatory prayers were common in Israel's worship, especially during times of persecution. They expressed confidence in God's justice and the rightness of judgment against evil.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance desire for justice with Christ's call to love enemies?
2. What does it mean to trust God's timing and methods in bringing justice?

## Interlinear Text

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רִשְׁעָה תִּדְרֹשׁ בָּרֶשֶׁת עַבְדָּוֹת שְׁבָרֵת

**Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man seek out his wickedness**

H7665

**thou the arm**

H2220

רִשְׁעָה

**of the wicked**

H7563

עַבְדָּוֹת

**and the evil**

H7451

תִּדְרֹשׁ

**man seek out**

H1875

רִשְׁעָה

**his wickedness**

H7562

בְּלֹא תִּמְצָא:

**none till thou find**

H1077

H4672

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zephaniah 1:12** (Evil): And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

**Psalms 37:17** (Evil): For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

**Job 38:15** (Evil): And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.

**Psalms 7:9** (Evil): Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

**Jeremiah 2:34** (Parallel theme): Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

**Zechariah 11:17** (Parallel theme): Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.