

Psalms 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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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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|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| שֶׁ֑בַר | זֶרְעֹ֑ | רָשָׁעִ֑ | וְכָ֑ע | תִּדְרֹ֑שׁ | רָשָׁעֹ֑ |
| Break | thou the arm | of the wicked | and the evil | man seek out | his wickedness |
| H7665 | H2220 | H7563 | H7451 | H1875 | H7562 |
| | | | | | |
| בְּלֹ֑ | תִּמְצָ֑א: | | | | |
| none | till thou find | | | | |
| H1077 | H4672 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

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.