

# Psalms 109:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.

## Analysis

**Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg** (נוֹעַ יָנוּעוּ בָנָיו וְשָׁאֲלוּ, noa yanu'u vanav veshi'elu)—the verb נוֹעַ (nua) means "wander, be homeless," doubled for emphasis (נוֹעַ יָנוּעוּ, "wander they shall wander"). The verb שָׁאֲלָה (sha'al, "beg, ask for") depicts destitution. **Let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places** (וּדְרוֹשׁוּ מִחֲרוֹבוֹתֵיהֶם, vedoroshu mecharovoteihem)—from the ruins of their inheritance, they scavenge survival.

This curse inverts covenant blessings. Deuteronomy 28:4 promises "blessed shall be the fruit of thy body"; verse 18 threatens "cursed shall be the fruit of thy body." Cain received similar judgment: "a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth" (Gen 4:12). Yet even Cain received God's protective mark—judgment doesn't nullify God's image in humans or His providential care. The specificity here emphasizes complete reversal of prosperity: from landed inheritance to homeless begging.

## Historical Context

Conquest or exile meant precisely this fate—Israel itself would later wander as vagabonds during the Babylonian captivity (Lam 5:2-5). The "desolate places" (ruins) evoke destroyed estates, fitting David's prayer against those who sought to destroy his inheritance.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28 inform our understanding of imprecatory prayers as appeals to established divine justice?
2. What does the connection between Cain's wandering and this curse reveal about the fruit of violence?
3. How should knowledge of generational consequences shape our pursuit of justice and righteousness today?

## Interlinear Text

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יָנ וְעוֹ	יָנ וְעוֹ	בְּנֵי יוֹ	וְשִׂיא לּוֹ	יִדְרֹשׁ וּ
be continually	be continually	Let his children	and beg	let them seek
H5128	H5128	H1121	H7592	H1875

מִחֶרֶב וּמִתִּיקָם:

their bread also out of their desolate places

H2723

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 37:25** (Parallel theme): I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.