

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 יָנוּעַ בְּתֵי יִשְׂאָלָה)—the verb נָעַ (nua) means "wander, be homeless," doubled for emphasis (נוֹעַ יָנוּעַ, "wander they shall wander"). The verb שָׁאַל (sha'al, "beg, ask for") depicts destitution. **Let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places** (וְזָרְשׁוּ מִקְרָבָוּתֵיכֶם)—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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

וְיִנְعַזְתִּי	וְיִנְעַזְתִּי	בְּנֵי	לֹא	וְיִשְׁאַלְתִּי	וְיִדְרְשֵׁנִי
be continually	be continually	Let his children	and beg	let them seek	
H5128	H5128	H1121	H7592	H1875	

מִסְרָבָותֵיכֶם:
their bread also out of their desolate places
H2723

Additional Cross-References

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.