

Psalms 109:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

Analysis

Let his posterity be cut off (יְהִי־אַחֲרֵיתוֹ לְהַכְרִית, yehi-acharito lehachrit)—אַחֲרֵית (acharit, "posterity, future, end") with the Hiphil infinitive of כָּרַת (karat, "cut off") speaks to dynastic extinction. **And in the generation following let their name be blotted out** (בְּדוֹר אַחֵר יִמַּח שְׁמָם, bedor acher yimach shemam)—the verb מָחָה (machah, "blot out, wipe out") with שֵׁם (shem, "name") means complete obliteration of legacy and memory.

In Israelite thought, posterity and name-preservation were forms of immortality. To have one's name blotted out reversed the covenant promise to Abraham: "I will make thy name great" (Gen 12:2). This is the ultimate curse—not merely death, but being forgotten, leaving no mark. Yet God's book contains names Satan cannot erase (Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5). The contrast highlights covenant blessing: the righteous have names written in heaven even if earthly memory fades; the wicked face both temporal and eternal erasure from God's favor.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures measured success by dynasty—sons to carry the name. Absalom erected a pillar "to keep my name in remembrance" because he had no sons (2 Sam 18:18). David prays his betrayer suffers Absalom's fate: remembered only in judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the biblical priority on "name and legacy" challenge modern individualism disconnected from generational impact?
2. What does having your name written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 21:27) mean versus earthly legacy?
3. How should desire for godly legacy (not mere fame) shape your life decisions and priorities?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי	אַחֲרֵיתוֹ	לְהַכֹּת יָת	בְּדוֹר	אַחֲרָיו	יִמְחָה
H1961	Let his posterity	be cut off	and in the generation	following	be blotted out
	H319	H3772	H1755	H312	H4229
שְׁמָם:					
let their name					
H8034					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:7 (Parallel theme): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Psalms 37:28 (Parallel theme): For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Job 18:19 (Parallel theme): He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org