

# Psalms 109:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

## Analysis

**Let them be before the LORD continually** (יְהִי נֶגֶד יְהוָה תָּמִיד, yihyu neged-YHWH tamid)—the sins remain נֶגֶד (neged, "before, in front of") God perpetually (תָּמִיד, tamid, "continually, always"). This contrasts sharply with Psalm 103:12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." **That he may cut off the memory of them from the earth** (וַיַּכְרֶת מֵעַרְץ זִכְרָם, veyachret me'erets zichram)—the purpose clause: sins kept before God so their זִכָּר (zecher, "memory, remembrance") may be כָּרַת (karat, "cut off") from earth.

David prays for the opposite of what God promises the righteous. Proverbs 10:7 says "the memory of the just is blessed," but the wicked become a curse. Isaiah 65:15 pronounces similar judgment: "Ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen." The theological point: sins confessed and forsaken are removed from God's memory (Heb 8:12); sins cherished and unrepented remain perpetually before His tribunal, ensuring the sinner's name perishes.

## Historical Context

Ancient cultures preserved names through monuments, genealogies, and oral tradition. To be "cut off from the earth" meant no memorial stone, no descendants reciting your lineage, no psalms or proverbs bearing your name—total historical erasure as judgment.

## Related Passages

---

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the contrast between sins "continually before the Lord" versus "removed as far as east from west" motivate repentance?
2. What does it mean that confession and forsaking sin removes it from God's active judgment (Heb 8:12)?
3. How should awareness of legacy and memory shape how we live before God and others?

## Interlinear Text

---

נָגַד יְהִי וְ	יְהוָה	תָּמִיד	וַיִּכָּרֶת
H1961	H5048	H3068	H8548
Let them be before the LORD		continually	that he may cut off
		H3772	
מֵאֶרֶץ	זִכְרָם:		
H776	H2143		
of them from the earth	the memory		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 34:16** (References Lord): The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

**Psalms 90:8** (Parallel theme): Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

**Job 18:17** (Parallel theme): His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)