

Psalm 109:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

Analysis

Let his days be few (יְהִי יוֹמָיו מַעֲמִים, yihyu-yamav me'atim)—a prayer for premature death as divine judgment. **And let another take his office** (פְּקֻדָּתוֹ יִקְחֶנְאָרֶךְ, pekudato yikach-acher)—the noun פְּקֻדָּה (pekudah) means "office, oversight, position of authority." This is the verse Peter quoted in Acts 1:20 regarding replacing Judas among the Twelve.

Peter's inspired application reveals this psalm's messianic dimension. Judas didn't merely betray a friend; he betrayed the Messiah, suffering the curse David prophetically pronounced. The combination of sudden death (Judas's suicide/fall in Acts 1:18) and replacement (Matthias in Acts 1:26) precisely fulfilled this imprecation. The verse establishes a biblical pattern: covenant-breakers forfeit their standing, and God raises up faithful successors. Saul lost his kingdom to David for this reason (1 Sam 15:28).

Historical Context

David himself was the "another" who took Saul's office after Saul's premature death in judgment. The principle of forfeited office runs through Scripture: Eli's house replaced (1 Sam 2:35), Gehazi losing Elisha's succession (2 Kgs 5:27), Judas replaced by Matthias.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of "forfeited office" apply to church leadership and the consequences of betraying sacred trust?
2. What does Peter's application to Judas teach about reading Old Testament imprecations in light of Christ's story?
3. How should the sobering reality of "days cut short" as judgment affect our stewardship of time and calling?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְרָא: אֶתְרָא: מִתְּנִתְתִּי יְמִינֵי יְמִינֵי
H1961 **Let his days** H3117 H4592 **be few** H6486 **his office** H3947 **take** H312 **and let another**

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:23 (Parallel theme): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.