

Psalm 112:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Analysis

The wicked shall see it, and be grieved (רָשָׁע יִרְאָה וְכָעֵס, rasha yir'eh ve-kha'as)—Ka'as means be angry, grieved, vexed. **He shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away** (שִׁנְנָאֵת יְחַרְקֵת וְתַמְסֵת, shinnav yacharok ve-names)—Charaq means gnash, grind teeth in rage; masas means melt, dissolve, waste away. **The desire of the wicked shall perish** (תִּפְאֹת רְשָׁעִים תָּבִדֵּל, ta'avat resha'im toved)—Ta'avah means desire, longing; abad means perish, be destroyed.

Psalm 112 describes the blessed life of those who fear the LORD. The wicked witness this blessing and respond with impotent rage—gnashing teeth signals furious frustration. While the righteous flourish (vv. 1-9), the wicked waste away watching. Their desires perish because they're built on sand. This contrasts Psalm 1: the righteous are like fruitful trees; the wicked like chaff blown away.

Historical Context

This psalm is an acrostic (like Psalm 111), following the Hebrew alphabet for teaching purposes. It reverses the problem of Psalm 37—there the righteous were troubled by wicked prosperity; here the wicked are troubled by righteous prosperity. Both affirm that God's moral order prevails ultimately.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When have you witnessed the wicked grieved by observing the righteous being blessed?
2. What does "gnashing teeth" reveal about the spiritual state of those who reject God?
3. How does the contrast between perishing desires (wicked) and fulfilled desires (righteous) challenge your priorities?

Interlinear Text

רָשָׁע יִם	ירָא הַנִּ	וְכַע ס	שָׁבֵר	לִפְנֵי
The wicked	shall see	it and be grieved	with his teeth	he shall gnash
H7563	H7200	H3707	H8127	H2786
וְתַּאֲבֹד:	רָשָׁע יִם	תָּאַתְּ תִּ	תַּאֲבֹד:	וְתַּמְתַּ
and melt away	the desire	The wicked	shall perish	
H4549	H8378	H7563	H6	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:12 (Evil): The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

Psalms 86:17 (Parallel theme): Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Proverbs 11:7 (Evil): When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

Luke 13:28 (Parallel theme): There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Proverbs 10:28 (Evil): The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

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