

# Psalms 112:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

## Analysis

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**His heart is established, he shall not be afraid** (סָמוּךְ לִבּוֹ לֹא יִירָא)—Samukh (established, firm, supported) uses the same root as Psalm 111:8's description of God's precepts standing fast. The righteous person's lev (heart, inner being) possesses divinely-given stability. Lo yira (shall not fear) promises courage not from circumstances but from heart-anchoring in God's character. This echoes Proverbs 3:25-26 and anticipates New Testament teaching on peace transcending understanding (Philippians 4:7).

**Until he see his desire upon his enemies** (עַד אֲשֶׁר-יִרְאֶה בְּצָרָיו)—Ad asher-yireh (until he sees) anticipates vindication. Betsarav (on his adversaries) means seeing God's justice enacted. This is neither personal vengeance nor schadenfreude but confidence that God will ultimately vindicate righteousness and judge wickedness. It echoes imprecatory psalms (Psalm 58, 137) and anticipates eschatological justice when God finally makes all things right. The righteous can maintain courage because they know the outcome—God wins, righteousness prevails.

## Historical Context

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This verse addresses the recurring Old Testament problem: the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous (Psalms 37, 73, Jeremiah 12:1, Habakkuk 1:13). Psalm 112 promises that the righteous will eventually witness divine justice, encouraging perseverance during seasons when evil seems triumphant. For post-exilic Israel, this meant confidence that Babylon's judgment and Israel's

restoration vindicated covenant faithfulness. New Testament eschatology extends this vindication to final judgment and resurrection.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does confidence in God's ultimate justice enable courage during present injustice?
2. What is the difference between biblical confidence in divine vindication and personal desire for revenge?
3. How should believers maintain 'established hearts' when circumstances seem to contradict God's promises?

## Interlinear Text

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סֵם וָיָן	לִּבּוֹ	לֹא	יִירָא	עַד	אֲשֶׁר	יִרְאֶה
is established	His heart	H3808	he shall not be afraid	H5704	H834	until he see
H5564	H3820		H3372			H7200
בְּצָרָיו:						
his desire upon his enemies						
H6862						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:9** (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

**Psalms 91:8** (Parallel theme): Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

**Psalms 118:7** (Parallel theme): The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

**Psalms 59:10** (Parallel theme): The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

**Psalms 31:24** (Parallel theme): Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

**Psalms 27:14** (Parallel theme): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**Psalms 92:11** (Parallel theme): Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.

**Proverbs 3:33** (Parallel theme): The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.