

Psalm 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Analysis

This verse describes a vicious cycle: the wicked freely strut when vileness is exalted among humanity. The Hebrew 'halak saviv' (walk all around) suggests unrestrained movement. When culture celebrates vice as virtue, wickedness becomes unashamed and public. This anticipates Paul's description of those who not only practice sin but celebrate those who do (Romans 1:32). Reformed theology calls this the judicial hardening that follows persistent rebellion.

Historical Context

Written during a period of moral decline in Israel when cultural values inverted, celebrating what God condemned—a pattern repeated throughout Judges and Kings.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does cultural celebration of sin embolden wickedness in society?
2. What is your responsibility when living in a culture that exalts vileness?

Interlinear Text

לְבָנִים	לְזַלְלָת	בְּמִתְהָלָכָה	רְשָׁעִים	יְמִינָה	בְּסָבִיב
on every side	The wicked	walk	are exalted	when the vilest	men
H5439	H7563	H1980	H7311	H2149	H1121

אַתָּה

H120

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