

Psalms 125:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with warning and blessing: 'As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.' The phrase 'turn aside' indicates deliberate departure from righteousness. 'Crooked ways' (Hebrew 'aqalqalah') describes twisted, perverse paths that deviate from straight moral direction. The judgment 'LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity' pictures God conducting apostates to join those already committed to evil - they get what they chose. 'Lead them forth' may suggest leading to judgment or exile, removing them from among God's people. The contrast 'but peace shall be upon Israel' promises shalom (wholeness, security, flourishing) for the faithful covenant community. The verse establishes two destinies: apostates join evildoers in judgment; faithful Israel experiences peace. This ending returns to the theme of stability (v. 1-2) for those who remain faithful.

Historical Context

Israel's history included repeated cycles of apostasy and judgment, where those who turned from God were removed through exile or death, while a faithful remnant was preserved. The pattern appears in wilderness wandering (unfaithful generation died; faithful entered Canaan), divided kingdom (northern tribes lost; Judah preserved longer), and exile (many remained in Babylon; faithful returned).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'turn aside' unto crooked ways versus falling into sin unintentionally?
2. How does God 'lead them forth with workers of iniquity' - is this abandonment or just consequence?
3. Why does the psalm end with both warning (judgment) and promise (peace)?
4. How does the contrast between apostates' fate and Israel's peace motivate faithfulness?
5. In what ways does this ending challenge easy assurance while comforting genuine believers?

Interlinear Text

וְהִמָּטּוּ יָם	עַקְלָקְלוּתָם	יֹלִיכֵם	יְהוָה	אֶת
As for such as turn aside	unto their crooked ways	H1980	the LORD	H854
H5186	H6128		H3068	
פְּעָלֵי	הָאָוֶן	שָׁלֵם	עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל
with the workers	of iniquity	but peace	H5921	shall be upon Israel
H6466	H205	H7965		H3478

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 59:8 (Peace): The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Proverbs 2:15 (Parallel theme): Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:

Psalms 128:6 (Peace): Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Psalms 40:4 (References Lord): Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Galatians 6:16 (Peace): And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Psalms 101:3 (Parallel theme): I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Matthew 7:23 (Sin): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Philippians 2:15 (Parallel theme): That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Hebrews 10:38 (Parallel theme): Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.