

Psalms 129:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom.

Analysis

The agricultural futility continues: 'Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom.' This verse extends the housetop grass metaphor - such grass is useless for harvest. The 'mower' (one who cuts grain) cannot fill his hand because there's insufficient growth. Similarly, 'he that bindeth sheaves' (gathers harvested grain into bundles) has nothing to gather in his bosom (fold of garment used to carry items). The double imagery emphasizes complete uselessness - enemies produce nothing of lasting value. They may sprout, but they yield no harvest. This pictures the futility of opposing God's purposes - all effort and appearance of success amounts to nothing. Work that opposes God is ultimately wasted, producing no fruit.

Historical Context

Harvest imagery was central to Israelite life and theology - representing productivity, blessing, and reward. The contrast between full harvest (blessing) and empty hands (cursing) appears throughout Scripture (Deuteronomy 28). Enemies' inability to produce harvest despite activity symbolizes God's frustration of their plans.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do empty hands and empty bosom illustrate the futility of opposing God?
2. What does it mean that enemies' activity produces no harvest - how is this divine judgment?
3. How does this verse encourage believers whose faithful work seems unproductive while evil appears successful?
4. In what ways do various forms of evil ultimately prove fruitless despite temporary appearance of success?
5. How does Jesus' teaching about fruit-bearing (John 15:1-8) relate to this psalm's imagery?

Interlinear Text

אֶשֶׁל אֶמָל אֶכַּפּוֹ קוֹצֵר וְחֶצֶן				
H3808	fillet	not his hand	Wherewith the mower	his bosom
	H4390	H3709	H7114	H2683
וְהַעֲמִיר:				
nor he that bindeth sheaves				
H6014				

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:8 (Parallel theme): For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.