

# Psalms 35:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

## Analysis

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The principle of returning evil for good violates natural justice and covenant loyalty (Hebrew 'chesed'). The phrase 'spoiling of my soul' indicates the devastating spiritual impact of betrayal—it depletes inner vitality and trust. This experience typologically points to Judas's betrayal of Christ, who received evil for good. Romans 12:21 reverses this dynamic: 'Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.'

## Historical Context

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David likely references specific betrayals, possibly during Saul's court when servants turned against him despite his loyal service, or during Absalom's conspiracy when former allies became enemies.

## Related Passages

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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love



## Study Questions

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1. How do you continue doing good when it's been rewarded with evil?
2. What does it look like to overcome evil with good in your relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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יִשְׁלַמ וְנִי	כִּי עָה	תַּחַת	טוֹב ה	שָׁכ וְל	לְנַפְשִׁי:
<b>They rewarded</b>	<b>me evil</b>	H8478	<b>for good</b>	<b>to the spoiling</b>	<b>of my soul</b>
H7999	H7451		H2896	H7908	H5315

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 10:32** (Good): Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

**Psalms 38:20** (Evil): They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is.

**Jeremiah 18:20** (Evil): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

**Proverbs 17:13** (Evil): Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

**1 Samuel 19:15** (Parallel theme): And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.