

Psalms 35:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.

Analysis

Chaff represents worthlessness and vulnerability—the useless husks blown away during threshing. This imagery appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 1:4, Matthew 3:12) to depict the fate of the wicked. The 'angel of the LORD' may refer to the Angel of the LORD (Christophany) or divine agents executing judgment, emphasizing that God personally superintends the destruction of evil while the righteous need not lift a finger.

Historical Context

Ancient threshing involved tossing grain in the wind to separate wheat from chaff. This agricultural image would resonate powerfully with an agrarian society, vividly depicting how easily God scatters His enemies.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'chaff' in your life needs to be blown away by God's refining work?

2. How does trusting God's timing in judgment free you from anxiety about evildoers?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי וְ	כֶּמֶל י	לִפְנֵי	ר וּמ	וּמְלַאךְ	יְהוָה
H1961	Let them be as chaff	before	the wind	and let the angel	of the LORD
	H4671	H6440	H7307	H4397	H3068

דוֹחָה:
chase
H1760

Additional Cross-References

Job 21:18 (Parallel theme): They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

Isaiah 29:5 (Parallel theme): Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

Hebrews 11:28 (Parallel theme): Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

Isaiah 37:36 (References Lord): Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Isaiah 17:13 (Parallel theme): The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Acts 12:23 (References Lord): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Psalms 1:4 (Parallel theme): The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Exodus 14:19 (Parallel theme): And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

Hosea 13:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

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