

Psalm 36:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

Analysis

The prophetic perfect tense 'are fallen... are cast down' describes future judgment with past tense certainty—what God decreed is accomplished regardless of timing. 'There' may indicate a specific place of judgment or simply 'behold!' The finality 'shall not be able to rise' emphasizes irreversible defeat. This conclusion answers the psalm's opening portrait of seemingly successful wickedness (vv. 1-4) with assurance that appearances deceive; God's judgment will ultimately vindicate righteousness and destroy evil, encouraging patient endurance.

Historical Context

The certain downfall of evildoers was a consistent theme in wisdom literature and prophetic oracles. Israel's faith required trusting this eventual outcome despite present circumstances suggesting otherwise.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does confidence in God's ultimate justice help you endure present injustice?
2. What difference does it make that the wicked's fall is both certain and final?

Interlinear Text

וְנִפְלֹא שָׁמֶן פְּעָלָה אֲלֵי תְּדִין לֹא

H8033 **fallen** H5307 **There are the workers** H6466 **of iniquity** H205 **they are cast down** H3808

וְכַלְיָה יִרְאֶה H3201 **and shall not be able** H6965 **to rise**

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:5 (Sin): Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

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