

Psalms 37:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

Analysis

Poetic justice appears: the sword meant for others enters the attacker's 'own heart,' and bows break before use. This principle of self-inflicted judgment appears throughout Scripture (Esther 7:10, Proverbs 26:27). The Hebrew 'lev' (heart) represents the vital center—the very weapon aimed at victims fatally wounds the assailant. God's judgment often uses the wicked's schemes against them, teaching that evil is ultimately self-destructive. This doesn't require divine intervention so much as the intrinsic consequences of sin.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare stories celebrated reversals where attackers fell by their own weapons. David had witnessed this pattern repeatedly, learning to trust God's justice rather than fear enemies' weapons.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Have you seen instances where evil schemes backfired on their perpetrators?

2. How does this principle encourage you to leave justice to God rather than plotting counter-attacks?

Interlinear Text

חַרְבָּם	תָּבֹא	בְּלִבָּם	וְקִשְׁתֹּתָם	תִּשְׁבְּרָהּ:
Their sword	shall enter	into their own heart	and their bows	shall be broken
H2719	H935	H3820	H7198	H7665

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:8 (Parallel theme): Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

Jeremiah 51:56 (Parallel theme): Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite.

Hosea 1:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

2 Samuel 17:23 (Parallel theme): And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.