

Psalms 37:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Analysis

The metaphor of grass and herbs speaks to transience—what appears vibrant today withers tomorrow. This imagery appears throughout Scripture (Isaiah 40:6-8, James 1:10-11, 1 Peter 1:24) to contrast human temporality with divine permanence. The word 'soon' is relative to God's timing but promises brevity from eternal perspective. This agricultural image would resonate powerfully in ancient agrarian society where grass literally withered rapidly under the Middle Eastern sun, making the comparison visceral and memorable.

Historical Context

Palestinian climate featured rainy and dry seasons. Green vegetation flourished briefly after rains but quickly withered, providing a vivid object lesson about the fleeting nature of the wicked's prosperity.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does remembering life's brevity help you maintain eternal perspective?

2. What 'grass-like' things in your life need to be viewed with proper perspective?

Interlinear Text

דְּשָׂא וְכַלְעֵד מִתְּבָא הַכְּצִיר כְּלָא
H3588 like the grass For they shall soon be cut down as the green herb
H2682 H4120 H5243 H3418 H1877

וְבָלְעָד:

and wither

H5034

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 92:7 (Parallel theme): When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

Job 14:2 (Parallel theme): He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

1 Peter 1:24 (Parallel theme): For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: