

Psalm 37:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

Analysis

Such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth (מִבְּרָכָיו יִרְשְׁאָרֶץ, mevorakhav yirshu-arets)—the mevorakhim (blessed ones) receive the land promise given to Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3, 17:8). Jesus radicalized this in the Beatitudes: "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). **They that be cursed of him shall be cut off** (מִקְלָלָיו יִכְרֹתּוּ, meqolalav yikaretu)—karet, being "cut off," meant covenant exclusion, divine judgment removing one from God's people and promises.

This verse reveals election theology: inheritance flows from divine blessing, not human merit. The land promise extends beyond Canaan to the renewed creation (Romans 4:13, Revelation 21:1-4). Those cursed are self-excluded through covenant rebellion, not arbitrary divine rejection.

Historical Context

The 'earth' (erets) had layered meaning: the Promised Land of Canaan for Israel, and eschatologically, the renewed world. Post-exilic Jews meditated on this promise during Babylonian captivity when the land seemed lost, clinging to God's unchanging blessing despite judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding inheritance as divine gift rather than earned reward change your approach to spiritual life?
2. What does it mean today to 'inherit the earth' as one of God's blessed people?

Interlinear Text

וְמִקְלָלֵי כֵּן בָּרְכֵי מִירְשָׁו אֲכִזָּנָא וְמִקְלָלֵי כֵּן בָּרְכֵי מִירְשָׁו אֲכִזָּנָא
H3588 For such as be blessed H1288 of him shall inherit H3423 the earth H776 and they that be cursed H7043
of him shall be cut off H3772

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:33 (Blessing): The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (Parallel theme): If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Psalms 37:9 (Parallel theme): For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Galatians 3:13 (Curse): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: