

Psalms 37:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Analysis

For the LORD loveth judgment (כִּי יְהוָה אֶחֱבֶת מִשְׁפָט), ki YHWH ohev mishpat)—God's ahavah (love) for mishpat (justice/judgment/rights) grounds all moral order. He isn't indifferent to right and wrong but passionately loves justice. **And forsaketh not his saints** (וְלֹא יִשְׁזַׁב אֶת-חֶסֶדְךָ), v'lo-ya'azov et-chasidav)—chasidim (holy/godly ones, from chesed, steadfast love) are never azav (forsaken). **They are preserved for ever** (לְעוֹלָם נִשְׁמָרָה), le'olam nishmaru)—shamar (kept/guarded/watched over) promises eternal security. **But the seed of the wicked shall be cut off** (וְזַרְעָם רְשָׁעִים נִקְרָת), v'zera resha'im nikhrat)—karet again: covenant exclusion, generational judgment.

This verse anchors eternal security in God's character: He loves justice, therefore cannot forsake the righteous (who embody His justice) nor preserve the wicked (who violate it). Romans 8:38-39 expounds this: nothing can separate us from God's love.

Historical Context

Written against Israel's experience of exile (punishment for covenant-breaking) yet confidence in God's preservation of a remnant. The chasidim were the faithful few who maintained Torah devotion during apostasy, trusting God's promise to preserve despite national judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's love for justice comfort or challenge you—does it assure you of His faithfulness or convict you of areas lacking His righteousness?
2. What does it mean that God 'preserves' His saints forever—how does eternal security relate to present perseverance?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה מֶשֶׁפֶט אֶת־הָבָדִיל הַיְלָא יַעֲזֵב כִּי
H3588 For the LORD loveth judgment H3808 and forsaketh H853
H3068 H157 H4941 H5800

רְשָׁעִים יְמִינֵי בְּעֵד נִשְׁמָתֶךָ לְעוֹלָם סִדְּךָ
not his saints for ever they are preserved but the seed of the wicked
H2623 H5769 H8104 H2233 H7563

תִּכְרַת:
shall be cut off
H3772

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:7 (Love): For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Proverbs 2:22 (Evil): But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Isaiah 59:21 (References Lord): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Psalms 21:10 (Parallel theme): Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men.

Job 27:14 (Parallel theme): If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

1 Peter 1:5 (Parallel theme): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:1 (Holy): Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Isaiah 61:8 (Love): For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Psalms 37:40 (Evil): And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

1 John 2:19 (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.