

# Psalms 37:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

## Analysis

**Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not** (וַיָּעֲבֹר וְהִנֵּה אֵינֶנּוּ) vaya'avor ve-hinneh einennu)—Avar (pass away) combined with hinneh (behold!) expresses startling suddenness. Einennu (he was not) echoes Genesis 5:24 but opposite—obliterated, not translated. **I sought him, but he could not be found** (וְאָבַקְשָׁהוּ וְלֹא נִמְצָא) va-avakeshehu ve-lo nimtza)—The disappearance is total and irreversible.

The mighty tree of verse 35 has vanished utterly. History confirms this: Haman hanged (Esther 7:10), Herod eaten by worms (Acts 12:23), empires reduced to ruins. The speed ("yet") emphasizes divine sovereignty over human timelines. What appears permanent can vanish overnight in God's economy.

## Historical Context

David witnessed this pattern repeatedly—warriors defeated, conspirators exposed, enemies suddenly falling. Babylon fell in a single night (Daniel 5). Jerusalem's temple, seeming eternal, was destroyed in AD 70 just as Jesus predicted.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. When have you witnessed the sudden downfall of someone who seemed invincibly powerful?
2. How should the transience of evil affect your response to current injustices and oppression?
3. What does this verse teach about God's patience with the wicked and his decisive judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַבְרָה	אֵין	כִּי	הִנֵּה	הָיָה	אָבְקַשׁ	וְאֵלָי
Yet he passed away	H2009	H369	and lo he was not yea I sought	H1245		H3808
H5674						

נִמְצָא:

him but he could not be found

H4672

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 37:10** (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

**Exodus 15:19** (Parallel theme): For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.