

Psalms 37:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

Analysis

But the transgressors shall be destroyed together (וּפְשָׁעִים יִשָּׁמַדוּ יַחְדָּו, u-fosh'im nishmadu yachdav)—Posh'im are rebels, willful transgressors; shamad means utterly destroyed. Yachdav (together) suggests comprehensive judgment. **The end of the wicked shall be cut off** (אַחֲרִית רְשָׁעִים נִכְרָתָה, acharit resha'im nikhratah)—Karat means cut off—covenant language for divine curse (Genesis 17:14).

This provides dark counterpoint to verse 37. The same word acharit (end) leads to opposite destinations: peace versus cutting off. The passive voice emphasizes divine agency—God acts as Judge. Revelation 20:11-15 depicts this final cutting off at the Great White Throne.

Historical Context

The Flood (Genesis 6-8), Sodom (Genesis 19), Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16), and Babylonian conquest demonstrated God's willingness to "cut off" persistent rebels. The wilderness generation died together (Numbers 14:29-35). History repeatedly validates this warning.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does certainty of final judgment shape your view of current injustices going unpunished?
2. What distinguishes God's patience with sinners from tolerance of ongoing rebellion against him?
3. How should Christians communicate this difficult truth with both honesty and compassion?

Interlinear Text

וְפֹשְׁעִים	נִשְׁמָד וְ	יַחַד וְ	אַחֲרֵי יָת	רָשָׁע יָם
But the transgressors	shall be destroyed	together	the end	of the wicked
H6586	H8045	H3162	H319	H7563
נִכְרְתָהּ:				
shall be cut off				
H3772				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:32 (Evil): The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Psalms 52:5 (Parallel theme): God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

Psalms 9:17 (Evil): The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.