

# Psalms 55:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

## Analysis

---

The contrast between the wicked's shortened days and the righteous's preservation reveals God's sovereign control over lifespans. 'Pit of destruction' translates Hebrew 'be'er shachat' (pit of corruption), evoking both Sheol and physical death. David's confidence ('I will trust in thee') demonstrates covenant faith—the righteous endure not by merit but by God's electing grace.

## Historical Context

---

Both Ahithophel and Absalom died violently before their time, fulfilling this prophecy. Ahithophel hanged himself (2 Samuel 17:23) and Absalom was killed despite David's orders to spare him (2 Samuel 18:14), demonstrating divine justice.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the assurance of God's justice help you endure when the wicked prosper temporarily?
2. What does it mean to 'trust in God' when facing betrayal and violence?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְאַתָּה ה	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	תּוֹרִידֵם	לְבַיְתָּא ר	שׁ חַת		
H859	But thou O God	shalt bring them down	into the pit	of destruction		
	H430	H3381	H875	H7845		
אֲנָשִׁי	דָּמֵי יִם	וּמְרֻמָּה	לֹא	יִחַצּוּ	יְמֵיהֶם	אֲנִי
men	bloody	and deceitful	H3808	shall not live out half	their days	H589
H582	H1818	H4820		H2673	H3117	
אֲבִטֵּחַ	בְּךָ:					
but I will trust	H0					
H982						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Proverbs 10:27** (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

**Psalms 5:6** (Blood): Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

**Job 15:32** (Parallel theme): It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.

**Isaiah 38:17** (Parallel theme): Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

**Psalms 73:18** (Parallel theme): Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

**Ecclesiastes 7:17** (Parallel theme): Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)