

Psalm 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

וְאֵת הָאֱלֹהִים תֹּורֶד סִן לְבָא רַשְׁתְּ חַת שְׁמַת
H859 But thou O God shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction
H430 H3381 H875 H7845

אָנָשִׁים יְמִינֵי יָמִינֵי יְמִינֵי אָנָשִׁים
men bloody and deceitful shall not live out half their days
H582 H1818 H4820 H3808 H2673 H3117 H589

בְּ: אֶבְטַח
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?

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