

Psalms 58:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

Analysis

The righteous rejoicing at vengeance is troubling to modern sensibilities but reflects covenant theology—God's people celebrate His justice. 'Wash his feet in the blood of the wicked' is hyperbolic battle imagery, not literal instruction. This anticipates Revelation 19:1-3 where heaven rejoices at Babylon's fall, showing that holiness delights in evil's defeat, not from cruelty but from love of justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern victory accounts often used hyperbolic language about conquest. This psalm's imagery reflects the reality that God's justice includes judgment, not merely redemption, and His people rightly celebrate righteousness vindicated.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile rejoicing at God's justice with grieving over the wicked's fate?

2. What does celebration of God's judgment reveal about the nature of holiness and love?

Interlinear Text

יְשׁוּעַם ח	צַדִּיק	כִּי	וְהֵא	וְנָקָם	פְּעָמָיו
shall rejoice	The righteous	H3588	when he seeth	the vengeance	his feet
H8055	H6662		H2372	H5359	H6471
יְהַוֵּשׁ	בְּדָם	הַרְשָׁעִים			
he shall wash	in the blood	of the wicked			
H7364	H1818	H7563			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 68:23 (Blood): That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same.

Psalms 91:8 (Evil): Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Psalms 107:42 (Righteousness): The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Psalms 64:10 (Righteousness): The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

Proverbs 11:10 (Righteousness): When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

Deuteronomy 32:43 (Blood): Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.