

Psalms 58:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.

Analysis

The difficult Hebrew of this verse likely depicts swift judgment—before pots feel thorns' heat, God's wrath sweeps away the wicked like a whirlwind. The imagery is sudden, unexpected judgment. The contrast between 'living' and 'wrath' may indicate judgment falling on the wicked during their prosperity, not just posthumously.

Historical Context

Thorns were common fuel for cooking fires in ancient Palestine, burning hot but quickly. The image suggests that before the wicked's plans come to fruition (pots boil), God's judgment intervenes, as with the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the suddenness of God's judgment on the wicked affect your patience in waiting for justice?

2. What does judgment during earthly life reveal about God's temporal as well as eternal justice?

Interlinear Text

בֶּטָרָם	יָבִינֹו	פִּי־תֶכֶּם	אֶת־ד	כְּמוֹ	חַי	כְּמוֹ
H2962	can feel	Before your pots	the thorns	H3644	both living	H3644
	H995	H5518	H329		H2416	
וּבְרֹחַ			יִשְׁעֶכֶן:			
and in his wrath			he shall take them away as with a whirlwind			
H2740			H8175			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:25 (Parallel theme): As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Psalms 118:12 (Parallel theme): They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

Ecclesiastes 7:6 (Parallel theme): For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.