

Psalm 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow,
and made it ready.

Analysis

God's judgment is presented as conditional: 'If he turn not' provides opportunity for repentance, but persistence in evil brings swift judgment. The imagery of sharpening a sword and bending a bow depicts active preparation for destruction. This teaches that God's patience has limits - judgment delayed is not judgment denied. The weapons metaphor shows judgment is purposeful and prepared, not impulsive. This verse should drive the wicked to repentance while assuring the righteous that justice will come.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare preparation involved careful maintenance of weapons. The imagery would be familiar to David's audience. The conditional 'if he turn not' reflects God's pattern throughout Scripture - warning before judgment, offering opportunity for repentance (Ezekiel 18:23). Final fulfillment comes in Revelation where Christ returns as warrior-king with sword and judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God's judgment is prepared affect your urgency in gospel witness?
2. Are there areas where you're presuming on God's patience rather than turning from sin?

Interlinear Text

אֵם	לְאֵל	שׁוֹבֵן	חַרְבָּה	וְשִׁלְטָה	קָשָׁתָה	בְּרִיךְ
H518	H3808	If he turn	his sword	not he will whet	his bow	he hath bent

יכוננו:

and made it ready

H3559

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:19 (Parallel theme): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord:

Matthew 3:10 (Parallel theme): And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Deuteronomy 32:41 (Word): If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

Ezekiel 18:30 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

