

Psalm 73:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Analysis

The wicked's destruction comes suddenly: 'How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.' Instantaneous judgment contrasts with long prosperity—years of ease end in moment of terror. 'Utterly consumed' emphasizes completeness; nothing remains. This describes both temporal judgments (sudden calamities) and eternal judgment (the rich man's immediate torment in Luke 16:23). Security built on wickedness is illusory; terror inevitably follows.

Historical Context

Biblical examples include the flood, Sodom's destruction, Korah's earthquake, and Herod's worms (Acts 12:23). Each demonstrates how sudden divine judgment can be after extended rebellion.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the suddenness of judgment warn against presuming on God's patience?
2. What 'terrors' await those who die in their wickedness without Christ?
3. How should the certainty of sudden judgment shape evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

וְיִאָמַר	לְשָׁמְךָ הַ	כִּכְלָעַ	כִּכְלָעַ
H349	H1961	How are they brought into desolation	as in a moment
		H8047	H7281
			H5486
בְּלָהֳתָן:	מִן	תְּמִימָה	
consumed	H4480	with terrors	
		H1091	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:1 (Parallel theme): The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

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