

Psalm 73:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

Analysis

Observing that the wicked have 'no bands in their death' and their 'strength is firm' suggests they die peacefully and live comfortably. This contradicts expected divine justice—shouldn't sinners suffer and the righteous prosper? The apparent anomaly creates the psalm's crisis. Yet temporal prosperity is deceptive; without Christ, a comfortable death leads to eternal judgment (Luke 16:19-31). The rich man died in comfort but woke in torment.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelites expected righteous living to produce blessing and wickedness to produce curse (Deuteronomy 28). When observation contradicted theology, it created profound spiritual crisis requiring deeper understanding of eternal realities.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when wicked people seem to prosper while the righteous suffer?
2. What does a peaceful death without bands mean if it leads to eternal separation from God?
3. How does eternal perspective reframe apparent injustices in temporal prosperity distribution?

Interlinear Text

אוֹלֵם: וְבָרֵךְ יְהָוָה לִמְתָּחַת שְׁרָאֵב וְתַּחַת
H3588 H369 For there are no bands in their death H2784 H4194
is firm H1277 but their strength H193

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 17:14 (Parallel theme): From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

Psalms 17:10 (Parallel theme): They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

Job 24:20 (Parallel theme): The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.

Ecclesiastes 2:16 (Parallel theme): For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

Luke 16:22 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

