

Psalms 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

Analysis

God's judgment extends beyond David's personal enemies to 'the heathen' (Hebrew 'goyim' - nations) and 'the wicked.' The comprehensive judgment includes rebuke (verbal condemnation), destruction (complete defeat), and name blotting (removal from history and memory). 'For ever and ever' emphasizes eternal, irreversible judgment. This sobering truth reflects God's holy opposition to wickedness. Yet it also points to Christ, who bore this judgment for His people so their names would not be blotted out.

Historical Context

Israel's enemies constantly threatened God's covenant people. This verse assures that God will ultimately defeat all opposition to His kingdom. The blotting out of names reverses the memorial-making important in ancient culture - complete obliteration. Prophets expanded this to eschatological judgment of all God-opposing nations at the end of history.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the reality of eternal judgment affect your evangelistic urgency?
2. Are you grateful that Christ bore the judgment so your name could be written in the Book of Life?

Interlinear Text

תָּעַרְתָּ	גוֹיִם	אַבְדָּתָּ	רָשָׁע	שְׁמָם
Thou hast rebuked	the heathen	thou hast destroyed	the wicked	their name
H1605	H1471	H6	H7563	H8034
תָּהִי יֹצֵאת	לְעוֹלָם	וְעַד:		
thou hast put out	for ever	and ever		
H4229	H5769	H5703		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:7 (Evil): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Revelation 19:15 (Parallel theme): And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Deuteronomy 9:14 (Parallel theme): Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Malachi 4:3 (Evil): And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Psalms 78:55 (Parallel theme): He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

Psalms 79:10 (Parallel theme): Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

Psalms 149:7 (Parallel theme): To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

Proverbs 13:9 (Evil): The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

2 Samuel 17:23 (Parallel theme): And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.