

Psalms 92:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

Analysis

The imagery of wicked prosperity as grass that springs up contains both botanical observation and prophetic judgment. Though grass appears quickly and abundantly, it has no permanence. The phrase 'destroyed forever' (shamad ad) emphasizes complete, eternal ruin—not temporary setback. This verse addresses the perennial problem of theodicy: why do the wicked prosper? The answer: their flourishing is brief and deceptive, while their destruction is permanent.

Historical Context

Written in an agricultural society where the contrast between grass and perennial plants was vivid, this metaphor would have immediate resonance with the original audience.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When you see wickedness prospering, how does the perspective of eternity change your response?
2. What 'grass-like' temporary things are you tempted to pursue instead of eternal values?

Interlinear Text

בָּרָךְ	כָּל	עֲשֵׂה	כִּתְמַת	רָשָׁעִים	בְּפִרְעָה
spring	When the wicked	H3644	as the grass	do flourish	H3605
H6524	H7563		H6212	H6692	
פְּעָלִים	אֵל	לְהַשְׁמִיד	כִּי	עַד:	עַד
and when all the workers	of iniquity	it is that they shall be destroyed	for ever	H5704	H5703
H6466	H205	H8045			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:38 (Evil): But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

1 Peter 1:24 (Parallel theme): For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

Malachi 4:1 (Evil): For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Psalms 73:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Job 12:6 (Parallel theme): The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

Malachi 3:15 (Evil): And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

Isaiah 37:27 (Parallel theme): Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org