

Psalms 94:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

Analysis

And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity (וְשָׁב עַלֵּיכֶם אֶת־אֹנוֹתֶם, vayyashev aleihem et-onam)—Shub means return, bring back; aven means iniquity, trouble, wickedness. **And shall cut them off in their own wickedness** (וְכַרְעַתֶּם, u-ve-ra'atam yatzmitem)—Ra'ah means evil, wickedness; tzamit means cut off, destroy, silence. **Yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off** (אֶצְחַתֶּם וְהַיְהָ, yatzmitem YHWH Eloheinu).

Divine justice operates by poetic reversal: the wicked fall into traps they set for others. Haman hanged on his own gallows (Esther 7:10), Pharaoh drowned in his own sea (Exodus 14:28), conspirators fell into Daniel's lions' den (Daniel 6:24). The repetition "shall cut them off... shall cut them off" emphasizes certainty. God's justice isn't arbitrary but fitted to the crime—they receive what they intended for others.

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, enemies who schemed against God's people faced reversal: Sennacherib's army destroyed (2 Kings 19:35), Babylon conquered by Persia (Daniel 5), Rome ultimately Christianized. Church history repeatedly demonstrates this pattern of reversal.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How have you seen the principle of "reaping what you sow" play out in specific situations?
2. Why is it important that God's judgment fits the crime rather than being arbitrary punishment?
3. How does certainty of eventual justice help you endure present injustice patiently?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁבֶּן	אֹתָם	עַלְיָהָם	אֶת	שְׁבָטָם	וְאַנְתָּם
And he shall bring					upon them their own iniquity
	H5921	H853			H205
וְגַרְבַּעֲתָם	וְאַמְתִּיתָם	וְאַמְתִּיתָם	וְאַמְתִּיתָם	וְאַמְתִּיתָם	וְהִנֵּה הָ
in their own wickedness	and shall cut them off	and shall cut them off	and shall cut them off	yea the LORD	
	H7451	H6789	H6789		H3068
אֱלֹהִינוּ					
our God					
	H430				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:16 (Parallel theme): His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

Psalms 64:8 (Parallel theme): So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away.

Psalms 55:23 (References God): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Proverbs 14:32 (Evil): The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Proverbs 2:22 (Evil): But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

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