

Psalm 94:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

Analysis

The question 'LORD, how long' (ad-matay Yahweh) expresses the tension between faith in God's justice and the present reality of evil's apparent success. This cry appears throughout Scripture (Psalms 6:3, 13:1-2, Habakkuk 1:2, Revelation 6:10), validating honest lament before God. 'Shall the wicked triumph' (ya'alzu—exult, rejoice) captures the painful reality that evil sometimes appears victorious. The repeated questioning intensifies the plea. This verse teaches that expressing anguish to God about injustice is legitimate prayer, not faithlessness.

Historical Context

Israel's history included repeated periods when righteous suffered under wicked rulers, creating existential tension between covenant promises and lived reality.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What situations of prolonged injustice cause you to cry 'How long, O LORD?' to God?
2. How can honest lament before God deepen your faith rather than undermine it?

Interlinear Text

עַד

מִתְ

H5704

H4970

רָשָׁע יְ

how long shall the wicked

H7563

עַד

יְהִי הָ

LORD

H5704

תְּנִתְ

H4970

רָשָׁע יְ

יְלִזְוָה

how long shall the wicked

H7563

triumph

H5937

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 6:10 (References Lord): And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Job 20:5 (Evil): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

Psalms 73:8 (Evil): They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

Psalms 43:2 (Parallel theme): For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?