The nature of the wicked is but short-lived. It's so true, wisdom leads to peace, but the life of the wicked, though it may look good outwardly will just simply fade away.

## 4:1 Better it is to have no children, and to have virtue: for the memorial thereof is immortal: because it is known with God, and with men.

The immortal soul of the righteous - the eternal existence beyond earthly death.

In John 11:25 it is written: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.

The wicked will be cast into the crucible for an aeon - but that does not necessarily equate to the destruction of souls - but to the purifying process of corrupt and wicked souls.

## <sup>2</sup> When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone, they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards.<sup>3</sup> But the multiplying brood of the ungodly shall not thrive, nor take deep rooting from bastard slips, nor lay any fast foundation.

The wicked, even though they may have temporary success, will ultimately face ruin and their offspring will suffer from their actions.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

<sup>4</sup> For though they flourish in branches for a time; yet standing not fast, they shall be shaken with the wind, and through the force of winds they shall be rooted out. <sup>5</sup> The imperfect branches shall be broken off, their fruit unprofitable, not ripe to eat, yea, meet for nothing.

<sup>6</sup> For children begotten of unlawful beds are witnesses of wickedness against their parents in their trial.

*Matthew* 6:19-20 *store up treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy.* 

Romans 2:7 eternal life that comes through patient continuance in doing good: to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.

## <sup>7</sup> But though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'"

The process of the soul's refinement and ascent toward divine wisdom.

There's an ascent of the soul and either righteousness in this realm or for the wicked, the crucible in the next realm is the process of spiritual ascent, with the focus being on the purification of the soul through either in this world - discipline, wisdom, and divine guidance or in the next -fire.

The immortality of the righteous is the result of a deep, internal transformation—one that begins with an alignment of the soul with divine wisdom and is perfected through יהוה grace.

The soul, through suffering, could then be shaped and prepared too.

The letter \*ש\* (Shin), representing fire and refinement, is the key in this process. Shin Shaddai as in El Shaddi has a dual aspect to יהוה, one of destruction and transformation - the trials the righteous undergo to be purified, are akin to the refiner's fire that leaves only what's pure.

And the punishment the wicked undergo to be purified, are also akin to the refiner's fire that leaves only what is pure!

The promise of eternal reward is not simply an escape from suffering but a transformative process in which souls are made more like Moshiach through the refining fire?

The transformative nature of suffering. It challenges the religious status quo but that doesn't change the possibility, that whether in life or death there is a purification process that leads to glory.

I am not denying there's a contrast between the righteous, who're granted immortality and eternal reward at death, and the wicked, whose works are fleeting and end in the lake of fire, the crucible.

<sup>8</sup> For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. <sup>9</sup> But wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. <sup>10</sup> He pleased God, and was beloved of him: so that living among sinners he was translated. <sup>11</sup> Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. <sup>12</sup> For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind. <sup>13</sup> He, being made

## perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: <sup>14</sup> for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hasted he to take him away from among the wicked.

Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer a vain thing?

*Psalm 73:3: For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.* 

Jeremiah 12:1:Righteous are You, O יהוה, when I plead with You; yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?

Wisdom is not attained by the length of years but by the righteousness of one's life, that means wisdom is <u>then</u> transcendent, marking the individual who is "beloved of YAH" and saved from the corruption of this world! Think on that !

*Luke 2:52 And Yahusha increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with יהוה and man* - He died young! I mean, what other life exemplifies true wisdom, not based on the passage of years but on the perfection of His nature!

In His abundant love and mercy can take away those he loves early to protect them from the corruption of sin. Their soul's purity pleases Him so much that He removes them before they can be tainted any further by the wickedness around them!

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The premature death of the righteous being taken to be with יהוה to avoid the corruption of the world - divine protection and eternal communion with יהוה what better reward is that?

Divine protection brings about spiritual ascent. The righteous are taken away not because of death but as a form of spiritual ascent, the elevation of the righteous. Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things יהוה works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Even the early death of the righteous doesn't <u>have to be seen</u> as a tragedy, but as a form of spiritual purity and divine favor by bypassing the trials of an earthly existence, entering directly into the divine presence.

<sup>15</sup> This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That his grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect unto his chosen.<sup>16</sup> Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living; and youth that is soon perfected the many years and old age of the unrighteous. <sup>17</sup> For they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in his counsel hath decreed of him, and to what end the Lord hath set him in safety. <sup>18</sup> They shall see him, and despise him; but God shall laugh them to scorn; and they shall hereafter be a vile carcase, and a reproach among the dead for evermore. <sup>19</sup> For he shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless; and he shall shake them from the foundation; and they shall be utterly laid waste, and be in sorrow; and their memorial shall perish. <sup>20</sup> And when they cast up the account of their sins, they shall come with fear: and their own iniquities shall convince them to their face.

There <u>is</u> a stark contrast between the righteous and the unrighteous, it really comes down to the transitory nature of worldly pursuits and the eternal value of wisdom.

The spiritual and material worlds are deeply interconnected, and true fruitfulness comes from a harmonious alignment with divine wisdom, which the wicked fail to comprehend .

Luke 16:19-31 The rich man also died and was buried, and in hell, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment...

2 Corinthians 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

The unseen realm of Solomon's wisdom! The fruitlessness of the wicked, then, becomes an absence of this spiritual connection doesn't it!