

Isaiah 52:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day is blasphemed.

Analysis

The question 'what have I here...that my people is taken away for nought?' expresses divine indignation at unjust oppression. The accusation that oppressors 'make them to howl' and 'my name continually is blasphemed' shows that persecution of God's people constitutes blasphemy against God. This establishes that the church's suffering is Christ's suffering (Acts 9:4 - 'why persecutest thou me?').

Historical Context

Babylonian mockery of captured Israel blasphemed Yahweh's name, suggesting He was weaker than Marduk. This provoked God's wrath and motivated Babylon's judgment. The principle applies to all persecution of believers - it is God who is ultimately attacked.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that attacks on you as a Christian are actually attacks on Christ Himself comfort and embolden you?
2. In what ways does the world's treatment of the church blaspheme God's name today?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| פֶּה | לִי | מָה | וְעַתָּה | הָיָה | כִּי |
| H6258 | H4100 | H0 | H6311 | Now therefore what have I here saith | the LORD |
| | | | | H5002 | H3588 |
| לְקַנְתָּה | עַמְּךָ | מִשְׁלָחָן | | | |
| is taken away | that my people | for nought | they that rule | | |
| H3947 | H5971 | H2600 | H4910 | | |
| וְיִלְלְוָה | | נָאָם | | וְיִהְיֶה | |
| over them make them to howl | Now therefore what have I here saith | | | the LORD | |
| H3213 | | H5002 | | H3068 | |
| מְפַאַזְעָה | | | | | |
| continually | every day | and my name | is blasphemed | | |
| H8548 | H3605 | H3117 | H8034 | H5006 | |

Additional Cross-References

Romans 2:24 (Parallel theme): For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.
