

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

Psalms 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

כִּי	יְהוָה	נֹאם	כֹּה	לִי	מֵה	וְעַתָּה
H3588	H3068	H5002	H6311	H0	H4100	H6258
	the LORD	Now therefore what have I here saith				
	H3068	H5002				
מִשְׁלֹ	חֲנֹם	עַמִּי	לָקַח			
H4910	H2600	H5971	H3947			
they that rule	for nought	that my people	is taken away			
יְהוָה	נֹאם	יְהִיל יֵלֹ				
H3068	H5002	H3213				
the LORD	Now therefore what have I here saith	over them make them to howl				
מִנְאָץ	שְׁמִי	הַיּוֹם	כָּל	וְתָמָּה	יָד	
H5006	H8034	H3117	H3605	H8548		
is blasphemed	and my name	every day	continually			

Additional Cross-References

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