

# Lamentations 3:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, and all their imaginations against me;

## Analysis

Continued appeal to God's awareness: **"Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, and all their imaginations against me."** The Hebrew shamata cherpatam YHWH kol-machshevotam ali (שָׁמַעְתָּ יְהוָה כָּל־מַחְשְׁבוֹתַי עָלַי) shifts from seeing (verse 60) to hearing. Shamata (שָׁמַעְתָּ, "you have heard") acknowledges God's awareness of spoken reproach. Cherpatam (חֶרְפָּתָם, "their reproach") means disgrace, scorn, or insults hurled at the speaker.

The repetition of "all their imaginations against me" (kol-machshevotam ali, כָּל־מַחְשְׁבוֹתַי עָלַי) from verse 60 creates emphasis through redundancy—a Hebrew poetic technique. The enemies' schemes occupy their thoughts constantly. Ali (עָלַי, "against me") stresses that these plans target the speaker personally.

Theologically, this demonstrates that God hears not just prayers but also reproaches against His servants. When enemies mock believers, God hears. Psalm 44:13-16 laments similar reproach: "Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours...a byword among the heathen...My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me, For the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth." Yet the psalm ends with appeal to God for vindication. Romans 8:31-34 assures that no accusation stands against God's elect because Christ intercedes for us.

## Historical Context

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The reproaches Jeremiah heard were constant and public. Jeremiah 20:7-8 records: "I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily." His message that Jerusalem would fall seemed unpatriotic, making him hated. Pashhur the priest beat Jeremiah and put him in stocks (Jeremiah 20:2)—a public humiliation.

After Jerusalem's fall, vindication came. Jeremiah's warnings proved true; the mockers were silenced by events. The Babylonian commander Nebuzar-adan treated Jeremiah respectfully, offering him protection (Jeremiah 39:11-14, 40:4-6). The enemies who reproached Jeremiah faced judgment—death, imprisonment, or exile.

Similarly, Israel as a nation heard reproaches from surrounding peoples during exile. Ezekiel 36:2-7 records God's response to these taunts: "Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession...thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen...which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds...Therefore prophesy and say...I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame." God heard all reproaches and would vindicate His name.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing God has heard enemy reproaches against us provide comfort when facing mockery for faithfulness?

2. What does God's comprehensive hearing (reproaches, imaginations, speech) teach about His intimate awareness of our circumstances?
3. In what ways did Jesus experience the ultimate reproach (Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 22:6-8) and how does this affect our response to insults?
4. How should we respond to reproaches—with immediate retaliation, or with appeal to God who hears all and will vindicate?

## Interlinear Text

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| שָׁמַעְתָּ             | חֲרָפָתָם             | יְהוָה        | כָּל  | מַחְשְׁבֹתָם                      | עָלַי: |
| <b>Thou hast heard</b> | <b>their reproach</b> | <b>O LORD</b> | H3605 | <b>and all their imaginations</b> | H5921  |
| H8085                  | H2781                 | H3068         |       | H4284                             |        |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Lamentations 5:1** (References Lord): Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

**Psalms 89:50** (References Lord): Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; how I do bear in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people;

**Psalms 74:18** (References Lord): Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.

**Zephaniah 2:8** (Parallel theme): I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.