

Psalms 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

Analysis

The psalmist describes the wicked 'hotly pursuing' the poor, using hunting language. This reveals sin's aggressive nature—it doesn't remain passive but actively oppresses. The prayer that they be 'caught in the schemes they have devised' reflects the biblical principle of divine justice turning evil back upon itself (Psalm 7:15-16, Proverbs 26:27).

Historical Context

Composed during a time of social injustice in Israel when the powerful oppressed the vulnerable, contrary to Torah's protection of widows, orphans, and the poor.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you see pride manifesting as oppression in today's world?
2. In what ways are you called to defend the vulnerable?

Interlinear Text

בְּגִאוֹת	רָשָׁע	יְדֹלֵק	עַנִּי	יִתְּפֶשׂוּ	בְּמִזְמֹת
in his pride	The wicked	doth persecute	the poor	let them be taken	in the devices
H1346	H7563	H1814	H6041	H8610	H4209
וְ	חָשְׁבוּ:				
that	they have imagined				
H2098	H2803				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 59:12 (Parallel theme): For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

Psalms 7:16 (Parallel theme): His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

Psalms 36:11 (Evil): Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

Proverbs 5:22 (Evil): His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Psalms 31:18 (Parallel theme): Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Psalms 119:122 (Parallel theme): Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.

Psalms 140:5 (Parallel theme): The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

Psalms 119:85 (Parallel theme): The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

Psalms 119:69 (Parallel theme): The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

Isaiah 14:16 (Parallel theme): They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

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