

Psalm 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

בְּגָאוּ תְּהִלָּה כְּשָׁעָה יְדָלָה עֲנָה וְיִתְפְּשֵׁה אֵלֶיךָ בְּמִזְמָה וְתִּתְּהִלָּה
in his pride The wicked doth persecute the poor let them be taken in the devices
H1346 H7563 H1814 H6041 H8610 H4209

that they have imagined

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 qins 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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