

Psalm 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

Analysis

This vivid imagery portrays the wicked as a predator lurking to devour the innocent. The Hebrew 'innocent' (nakiy) refers to the legally blameless, not sinlessly perfect—those who are victims of injustice. This foreshadows Satan as a 'roaring lion seeking whom he may devour' (1 Peter 5:8) and anticipates Christ's condemnation of religious leaders who 'devour widows' houses' (Mark 12:40).

Historical Context

Reflects banditry common in ancient Near East where robbers would ambush travelers in villages and along roads. Metaphorically applied to unjust powerful figures.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you see predatory behavior masked in respectable settings?
2. What responsibility do you have to expose and resist such hidden evil?

Interlinear Text

בְּמַאֲבָבָה	בְּצָרֵי יִם	בְּמַסְתָּרִים	בְּיִקְרָב
He sitteth in the lurking places	of the villages	in the secret places	doth he murder
H3427	H3993	H2691	H4565
בְּנַקְנָה	לְחַלְקָה	אַצְפָּנוּ	בְּנַקְנָה
the innocent	his eyes	against the poor	are privily set
H5355	H5869	H2489	H6845

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 3:14 (Parallel theme): Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing was as to devour the poor secretly.

Jeremiah 22:17 (Parallel theme): But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

1 Samuel 22:18 (Kingdom): And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

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