

Psalm 109:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.

Analysis

For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me—The Hebrew **פִּי רָשָׁע וִפְּיוֹ מִרְמָה** (pi rasha ufi-mirmah) emphasizes dual sources of opposition: the openly wicked and the deliberately deceptive. David faces coordinated slander, not isolated criticism. **They have spoken against me with a lying tongue** (**לְשׁוֹן שְׁקָר**, leshon sheker)—the tongue of falsehood, which Proverbs lists among the seven abominations God hates (Prov 6:16-19).

This verse establishes the psalm's context: David suffers not from honest disagreement but from malicious fabrication. The imprecatory prayers that follow (vv. 6-19) respond to covenant-breaking treachery, not personal offense. Christ experienced this same betrayal from Judas and false witnesses (Matt 26:59-60), making Psalm 109 messianic in application—Peter cited verse 8 regarding Judas's replacement (Acts 1:20).

Historical Context

Traditionally attributed to David during Absalom's rebellion or conflicts with Saul's loyalists. Ancient Near Eastern treaty curses similarly invoked divine judgment on covenant-breakers. The psalm's severity reflects covenant theology: those who betray God's anointed invite the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between criticism that deserves humble response versus slander that requires firm resistance?
2. When falsely accused, how does David's resort to prayer (v. 4) rather than retaliation model Christ-like response?
3. What does coordinated deception reveal about spiritual warfare beyond merely human opposition?

Interlinear Text

בְּ	לְ	מִ	רָמָה	עַלְ
H3588	For the mouth	of the wicked	For the mouth	of the deceitful
H6310		H7563	H6310	H4820
פָּתַח	בָּרָא	אֵת	לְשׁוֹן	שְׁקָרָה
are opened	against me they have spoken		tongue	against me with a lying
H6605		H1696	H854	H3956
			H3956	H8267

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 52:4 (Parallel theme): Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.

Proverbs 12:19 (Parallel theme): The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Proverbs 6:17 (Parallel theme): A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Jeremiah 9:5 (Parallel theme): And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Acts 6:13 (Parallel theme): And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

Psalms 31:13 (Parallel theme): For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

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

Jeremiah 9:3 (Evil): And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

2 Samuel 17:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night: