

# Psalms 109:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.

## Analysis

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**They compassed me about also with words of hatred**—The verb סָבַב (savav, "to surround") pictures military encirclement, but the weapons are דִּבְרֵי שִׁנְאָה (divrei sin'ah, "words of hatred"). David faces verbal siege warfare. **And fought against me without a cause** (יִלְחָמוּנִי חִנָּם, yilachamuni chinnam)—gratuitous warfare, echoing Psalm 35:7, 19 and 69:4.

The phrase "without a cause" (חִנָּם) is theologically crucial: unmerited hatred anticipates Christ's statement in John 15:25, where He quotes Psalm 35:19 and 69:4 about being "hated without a cause." David's experience becomes typological of the Messiah's rejection. Proverbs 26:2 teaches that causeless curses cannot land, but causeless hatred still wounds—the righteous sufferer feels the assault even as God nullifies its ultimate power.

## Historical Context

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The language of military encirclement ("compassed me about") was literal for David, who endured Saul's hunts and Absalom's coup. The "without a cause" motif appears throughout the Psalter (35:7, 19; 69:4; 109:3; 119:161), forming a theological category for undeserved suffering that finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's quotation of "hated without a cause" help you interpret suffering that has no rational explanation?
2. What spiritual disciplines help you resist internalizing hatred directed at you for righteousness's sake?
3. How does recognizing causeless hatred as Satanic (not merely human) change your prayer response?

## Interlinear Text

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וְדַבֵּר י'	שִׂנְאָה ה	סָבְבּ וְנִי	וְלָחֵם וְנִי
me about also with words	of hatred	They compassed	and fought
H1697	H8135	H5437	H3898
חֲנֹם:			
against me without a cause			
H2600			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 69:4** (Parallel theme): They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.

**Psalms 35:7** (Parallel theme): For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.