

Psalm 109:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

They compassed me about also with words of hatred—The verb סִבְבַּ (savav, "to surround") pictures military encirclement, but the weapons are words of hatred (divrei sin'ah, "words of hatred"). David faces verbal siege warfare. **And fought against me without a cause** (וְלֹא־מִנְמִנִּי 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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

לִלְכָם וְנִי סְבַב וְנִי שָׁתָא הֵנִי
me about also with words of hatred They compassed and fought
H1697 H8135 H5437 H3898

חַטָּאת:
against me without a cause
H2600

Additional Cross-References

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.