

Psalms 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

Analysis

The imagery of wicked archers drawing bows in darkness portrays secret assault on the righteous. The Hebrew 'yashar leb' (upright in heart) contrasts with those who walk in darkness. This anticipates Paul's spiritual warfare teaching about flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16). The darkness suggests both secrecy and moral blindness—the wicked cannot perceive light (John 3:19-20).

Historical Context

Reflects the experience of David fleeing from Saul, when he faced assassination attempts from hidden enemies. Bows and arrows were standard weapons of ancient warfare.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What unseen spiritual attacks threaten your integrity?
2. How do you maintain uprightness when facing hidden opposition?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵנָּה	הַרְשָׁעִים	יִדְרֹכּוּ	שֶׁתִּקְוּ	כּוֹנְנֵי	חֶצֶם
H3588	H2009	For lo the wicked	bend	their bow	they make ready	their arrow
		H7563	H1869	H7198	H3559	H2671
עַל	תֵּר	לִירֹת	בְּמוֹ	אֶפְלֵ	לְיֹשְׁרָיִ	לֵב:
H5921	upon the string	shoot	H1119	that they may privily	at the upright	in heart
	H3499	H3384		H652	H3477	H3820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:14 (Evil): The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

Psalms 21:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, when thou shalt make ready thine arrows upon thy strings against the face of them.

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.