

# Psalms 119:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

## Analysis

**Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.** Opposition intensifies to include powerful leaders. **Princes** (sarim, שָׂרִים) are rulers, officials, or those with political authority and social influence. They **sit** (yashvu, יָשְׁבוּ), suggesting formal gatherings or judicial sessions, and **speak against** (nidbberu-bi, נִדְבְּרוּ-בִי) indicates conspiring, plotting, or slandering. The psalmist faces organized, high-level opposition—not random persecution but calculated hostility from the powerful.

The contrast is sharp: **but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes** (avdekha yasiach bechuqqekha, עֲבַדְךָ יָשִׁיחַ בְּחֻקֶּיךָ). While princes plot evil, God's servant contemplates divine truth. **Meditate** (siach, שִׁיחַ)—the same verb describing the princes' scheming—here describes righteous reflection. The psalmist refuses to be distracted or intimidated by powerful enemies; he remains absorbed in God's **statutes** (chuqqim, חֻקִּים). This echoes the experiences of Joseph, Daniel, and supremely Jesus, who faced opposition from religious and political authorities yet remained faithful to God's Word.

## Historical Context

Throughout biblical history, God's servants faced opposition from rulers—Moses from Pharaoh, David from Saul, Jeremiah from Judah's kings, the apostles from the Sanhedrin. Psalm 2 depicts kings conspiring against God's anointed, a pattern fulfilled in Jesus' trial (Acts 4:25-28). The psalmist's meditation during persecution

models the response of the faithful remnant who trusted God's Word despite political hostility.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain spiritual focus and Bible meditation when facing opposition or criticism?
2. What does it look like practically to respond to powerful adversaries by meditating on Scripture rather than defending yourself?
3. How does identifying as 'thy servant' provide perspective when facing attacks from those with worldly power?

## Interlinear Text

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גַּם	וַיֵּשֶׁב	שְׁרָרִים	בִּי	וַיִּדְבֹּר	עַד בְּדִבְרִי
H1571	<b>also did sit</b>	<b>Princes</b>	H0	<b>and speak</b>	<b>against me but thy servant</b>
	H3427	H8269		H1696	H5650
וַיִּשְׁמַע	בְּחֻקֵּי:				
<b>did meditate</b>	<b>in thy statutes</b>				
H7878	H2706				

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