

Psalms 124:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

Analysis

The conditional section concludes with blessing: 'Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.' The word 'blessed' (Hebrew 'baruch') shifts from hypothetical destruction to actual praise. The phrase 'who hath not given us' affirms that God prevented what would have naturally occurred. The imagery 'as prey to their teeth' returns to the swallowing metaphor (v. 3), now showing it didn't happen. 'Prey' suggests helpless victims; 'teeth' emphasizes the predatory nature of enemies. The verse celebrates deliverance as accomplished fact - God DID act, enemies DIDN'T prevail. This creates the psalm's pivot from imagining disaster to celebrating rescue. Blessing God for what He prevented is as important as blessing Him for what He provided. Sometimes greatest mercies are disasters averted.

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, God prevented enemies from completely destroying His people - a pattern of preservation despite overwhelming odds. Even when judgment came (exile), God preserved a remnant. The language of 'prey' and 'teeth' fits the predatory behavior of ancient empires that sought to devour smaller nations completely (Jeremiah 50:17).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is blessing God for what He prevented as important as blessing Him for what He provides?
2. What does it mean that God 'hath not given us as prey' - does this suggest He could have?
3. How does reflecting on 'close calls' deepen gratitude for divine protection?
4. In what ways do believers become 'prey' to spiritual enemies, and how does God deliver?
5. How does corporate testimony ('us') strengthen community awareness of God's protection?

Interlinear Text

בָּרַךְ	יְהוָה	שֵׁל אֵל	נָתַן נוֹ	טָרֶף	לְשִׁנֵּיהֶם:
Blessed	be the LORD	H3808	who hath not given	us as a prey	to their teeth
H1288	H3068		H5414	H2964	H8127

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:13 (References Lord): Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the LORD helped me.

Psalms 17:9 (Parallel theme): From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.

1 Samuel 26:20 (References Lord): Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.