

# Psalm 129:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.

## Analysis

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The testimony continues with crucial qualifier: 'Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.' The first half repeats verse 1, creating emphasis through repetition. The word 'yet' introduces the pivotal contrast that transforms complaint into praise. Despite repeated affliction, enemies 'have not prevailed' - they didn't achieve ultimate victory, complete destruction, or permanent subjugation. The Hebrew 'yakol' (prevailed) means to overcome, be able, or have power. Though enemies attacked repeatedly, they couldn't finally defeat Israel. This verse shifts perspective from suffering (which was real) to preservation (which was miraculous). The pattern established is: affliction yes, destruction no. This demonstrates God's protective power - not preventing all suffering but preventing ultimate defeat. The verse models how to testify truthfully about hardship while celebrating divine preservation.

## Historical Context

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Despite centuries of opposition, Israel survived as distinct people, religious community, and covenant nation. This was unprecedented - other ancient peoples were absorbed, destroyed, or disappeared. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia all failed to eliminate Israel permanently. Even when judgment came (exile), God preserved a remnant. This survival testified to divine protection and covenant faithfulness.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the 'yet' transform affliction testimony from complaint to praise?
2. What is the difference between experiencing affliction and being finally prevailed against?
3. How does Israel's historical preservation despite repeated attacks testify to God's faithfulness?
4. In what ways does this pattern (afflicted but not defeated) characterize Christian experience?
5. What hope does this provide for believers currently experiencing affliction?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	גַּם	בְּ	בַּתְּ	מִנְעִזֵּב	אָכַר	וְנִ
Many a time	have they afflicted	me from my youth			H1571	H3808
H7227	H6887	H5271				
וְכֹל	לִ					
yet they have not prevailed		H0				
		H3201				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 34:19** (Parallel theme): Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

**Matthew 16:18** (Parallel theme): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**Psalms 125:1** (Parallel theme): They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

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

**Psalms 42:1** (Parallel theme): As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

**John 16:33** (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

**Job 5:19** (Parallel theme): He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

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