

Psalms 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.

Analysis

David fears two outcomes if he falls: his enemy will say 'I have prevailed,' and his foes will rejoice. This reveals proper concern for God's glory—David's defeat would give God's enemies occasion to boast. The Hebrew 'yakol' (prevail) suggests overpowering strength. This anticipates Christ's concern that His Father's name be glorified even in suffering (John 12:28). Reformed theology sees our vindication as ultimately about God's honor.

Historical Context

Written during David's flight from Saul or Absalom, when his defeat would have been interpreted as God's rejection of His anointed king.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your spiritual struggle affect God's reputation among unbelievers?
2. In what ways do you prioritize God's glory over your own vindication?

Interlinear Text

פֶּן	יֹאמַר	רֵי	אֵיבִי	יִכָּלְתִּי	יָצַר
H6435	say		Lest mine enemy	I have prevailed	against him and those that trouble
	H559		H341	H3201	H6862
אֶמְצֵחַ	כִּי	אֶמְצֵחַ	אֶמְצֵחַ		
me rejoice	H1523	H3588	when I am moved		
			H4131		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:2 (Parallel theme): O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

Jeremiah 1:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

Psalms 62:6 (Parallel theme): He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

Psalms 38:16 (Parallel theme): For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

Proverbs 12:3 (Parallel theme): A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

Joshua 7:9 (Parallel theme): For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?