

Psalms 132:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with judgment and blessing: 'His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.' The phrase 'his enemies' refers to opponents of God's anointed king (Davidic descendant). The judgment 'will I clothe with shame' reverses the blessing of being clothed with salvation (v. 16) - enemies receive shame as their garment. 'Shame' (boshet) means disappointment, humiliation, defeat - their plots fail and they're exposed. The contrast 'but upon himself' emphasizes difference between enemies' fate and king's fate. The promise 'shall his crown flourish' pictures the king's authority and glory increasing, spreading, thriving. 'Crown' (nezer) represents royal authority, honor, consecration. 'Flourish' (tsuts) means to blossom, sparkle, shine. The ending assures that God's anointed will triumph while enemies fail. Ultimately fulfilled in Christ whose enemies become His footstool and whose kingdom has no end.

Historical Context

David's enemies were repeatedly defeated (2 Samuel 8). Solomon experienced peace as enemies were subdued. Despite periods when Davidic kings seemed weak or were removed (exile), God's ultimate purpose prevailed. Christ's resurrection defeated all enemies (1 Corinthians 15:25-26; Philippians 2:9-11), and His reign continues flourishing as gospel spreads.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does being 'clothed with shame' picture complete, public defeat?
2. What does the crown 'flourishing' suggest about the nature of Messianic kingdom?
3. How has Christ's crown flourished through history despite opposition?
4. What encouragement does this give believers facing enemies of the gospel?
5. How does this ending resolve the psalm's opening plea (vv. 1-5) and God's promises (vv. 11-17)?

Interlinear Text

א וֹיְבִי	אֶלְבִּי יֵשׁ	בִּנְשָׁת	עַל יִי	יִצֵּי
His enemies	will I clothe	with shame	H5921	flourish
H341	H3847	H1322		H6692

נִזְרוּ:

but upon himself shall his crown

H5145

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Job 8:22 (Parallel theme): They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

Psalms 109:29 (Parallel theme): Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

Revelation 11:15 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Daniel 12:2 (Parallel theme): And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

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