

Psalms 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

Analysis

The wicked 'frustrate the plans of the poor' but God is their refuge. The Hebrew 'bush' (put to shame/frustrate) indicates actively working against the vulnerable. Yet the poor have Yahweh as their 'machseh' (refuge/shelter). This anticipates the Beatitudes where the poor in spirit possess the kingdom (Matthew 5:3). Reformed theology affirms God's particular care for the marginalized as evidence of His justice.

Historical Context

Reflects the social dynamics where powerful people blocked the poor's legitimate appeals for justice, but the oppressed could appeal to God directly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does your wealth or power tempt you to frustrate rather than facilitate others' welfare?
2. In what ways can you be an answer to the poor's prayers for refuge?

Interlinear Text

עֲצַת	עַנֵּי י	תָּבִי יִשׁוּ	כִּי	יְהוָה	מִחֲסֵהוּ:
the counsel	of the poor	Ye have shamed	H3588	because the LORD	is his refuge
H6098	H6041	H954		H3068	H4268

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:9 (References Lord): The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 4:2 (Parallel theme): O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah.

Psalms 42:10 (Parallel theme): As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?