

# Psalms 140:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

## Analysis

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"Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves." The petition *al titen YHWH ma'awayei rasha* (do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked) asks God to frustrate evil intentions. *Ma'awah* (desire/craving) indicates what the wicked long for. *Zemamo al taphek* (his scheme do not promote/accomplish). *Zimmah* (device/scheme/plan) means plot or evil design; *puq* (bring forth/accomplish) means to grant success. *Yarumu selah* (lest they exalt themselves). *Rum* (be high/exalted) indicates pride; *selah* marks pause for reflection. The plea: don't allow wickedness to succeed, producing arrogant pride. When evil prospers, the wicked become emboldened, mocking God and oppressing the righteous (Psalm 73:3-12). God's justice requires thwarting evil schemes.

## Historical Context

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Throughout Scripture, God frustrated wicked schemes: confusing languages at Babel (Genesis 11:7-9), hardening Pharaoh's heart to display power (Exodus 14:4), delivering Israel from Haman's genocide plot (Esther 3-7), protecting Daniel from lions (Daniel 6), foiling Herod's infanticide against Jesus (Matthew 2:13-18), freeing Peter from prison (Acts 12:6-11). Yet God also allowed evil temporary success for greater purposes: Joseph's brothers' betrayal led to preservation (Genesis 50:20), Jesus's crucifixion accomplished salvation (Acts 2:23-24, 4:27-28). God's ways are inscrutable but always just. Evil may prosper briefly but will ultimately be judged (Psalm 37, 73).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How should believers respond when the wicked seem to prosper and their schemes succeed?
2. What is the relationship between God's sovereignty and His thwarting evil designs?
3. How does remembering God's past frustration of evil plots strengthen confidence in present battles?

## Interlinear Text

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טָמְנוּ	גֵּאִ יָם	פֶּחַ	לִי	וְחַבְלֵי יָם	פָּרְשׁוּ	רֶשֶׁת
have hid	The proud	a snare	H0	for me and cords	they have spread	a net
H2934	H1343	H6341		H2256	H6566	H7568
לִידֹ	מַעַנְגָּ ל	מִקְשׁ יָם	שָׂתוּ	לִי	סֵלָה:	
by the wayside	H4570	gins	they have set	H0	for me Selah	
H3027		H4170	H7896		H5542	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 35:7** (Parallel theme): For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

**Psalms 142:3** (Parallel theme): When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

**Jeremiah 18:22** (Parallel theme): Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet.

**Psalms 57:6** (Parallel theme): They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

**Jeremiah 18:20** (Parallel theme): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

**Psalms 31:4** (Parallel theme): Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.

**Psalms 119:85** (Parallel theme): The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

**Psalms 36:11** (Parallel theme): Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

**Psalms 119:69** (Parallel theme): The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

**Psalms 119:110** (Parallel theme): The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.