

Psalm 17:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;

Analysis

Enemies tracking David's steps now surround him, setting their eyes 'to cast him to the ground.' The Hebrew 'natah' (cast down) suggests violent throwing. The eyes 'set' ('shith') indicate determined focus on destruction. This parallels Christ's enemies who watched Him seeking grounds for accusation (Luke 20:20). Reformed theology sees this as the world's perpetual hostility toward God's anointed.

Historical Context

Describes pursuit by Saul's military forces who tracked David through the wilderness, using scouts and informants to locate and destroy him.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faithfulness when facing determined opposition?
2. What does persistent hostility toward righteousness reveal about spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

א שיתו	עיניהם	עטת ה	סבב וכו'	א שירינו
us in our steps	H6258	They have now compassed	their eyes	they have set
H838		H5437	H5869	H7896

לְתַתּוּ וְתִּבְּרֹא: bowing down to the earth
H5186 H776

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:14 (Parallel theme): The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

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