

# Psalms 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

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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

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

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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

## Interlinear Text

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אֶשְׁרִינוּ	עַתָּה	סָבְבוּ וְנִי	עֵינֵיהֶם	וְשֵׁי יָתוּ
us in our steps	H6258	They have now compassed	their eyes	they have set
H838		H5437	H5869	H7896
לָנֶט וְתִ	בְּאֶרֶץ:			
bowing down	to the earth			
H5186	H776			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.