

Psalms 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:

Analysis

David prays for God to 'confront' and 'subdue' his enemies with God's sword. The Hebrew 'qadam' (confront) means to meet face-to-face. This imprecatory prayer appeals to divine justice, trusting God as warrior-king. The 'sword' represents God's judgment. Reformed theology understands such prayers as prophetic declarations of certain judgment, not personal vengeance—they express confidence in God's justice while entrusting vindication to Him.

Historical Context

Written during military conflict when David needed divine intervention. Ancient warfare imagery applied to spiritual reality—God as divine warrior fighting for His people (Exodus 15:3).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance praying for justice with leaving vengeance to God?

2. What does it mean to trust God as your defender rather than defending yourself?

Interlinear Text

קוּמָה הַ	יְהוָה הַ	קִדְמָה הַ	כִּי נָיו	הַכְרִיעַ הוּ	פִלֹטָה הַ	נַפְשִׁי י
Arise	O LORD	disappoint	him	cast him down	deliver	my soul
H6965	H3068	H6923	H6440	H3766	H6403	H5315

מִכָּשׁ ע	חֶרֶבְךָ:
from the wicked	which is thy sword
H7563	H2719

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:23 (Resurrection): Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.

Psalms 44:26 (Resurrection): Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.

Psalms 7:6 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 3:7 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.