

Psalms 18:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

Analysis

David beat enemies 'fine as dust before the wind,' casting them out like 'street mud.' The Hebrew 'shachaq' (beat fine) and 'riq' (pour out/empty) portray complete destruction and humiliation. Dust and mud imagery indicates utter defeat and contempt. This harsh language reflects ancient warfare's brutality and God's judgment. It anticipates Revelation's imagery of Christ treading the winepress of God's wrath (Revelation 19:15).

Historical Context

Ancient victory language where defeated enemies were trampled and left as refuse in streets—imagery that modern readers find jarring but was standard in ancient Near Eastern conquest accounts.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you process Scripture's harsh judgment language alongside God's love?

2. What does the finality of God's judgment teach about the seriousness of rebellion?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶשְׁחָקֵם	כְּעָפָר	עַל	פְּנֵי	רֵיחַ	כְּטֹיט
Then did I beat	them small as the dust	H5921	before	the wind	as the dirt
H7833	H6083		H6440	H7307	H2916
חוּצוֹת	אֶרְצָם:				
in the streets	I did cast them out				
H2351	H7324				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Zechariah 10:5 (Parallel theme): And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

2 Kings 13:7 (Parallel theme): Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.