

# Psalms 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

## Analysis

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Sheol's 'cords' entangled and death's 'snares' confronted David. The Hebrew 'she'ol' represents the grave and realm of the dead. The 'moqesh' (snare/trap) suggests being caught with no escape. This language appears in Peter's sermon at Pentecost describing Christ's resurrection as breaking death's cords (Acts 2:24). Reformed theology sees death as the enemy Christ conquered, freeing believers from its terror (Hebrews 2:14-15).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelites viewed Sheol as the shadowy realm of the dead, from which only divine power could rescue. David faced literal threats that would consign him there.

## Related Passages

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's resurrection transform your relationship with death?
2. What 'snares' in life feel like they're dragging you toward spiritual death?

## Interlinear Text

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חֲבֵלֵי י	שָׁא וּל	סָבַב וְנִי	קָדַם וְנִי	מִן וּקְשֵׁי	מָוֶת:
<b>The sorrows</b>	<b>of hell</b>	<b>compassed me about</b>	<b>prevented</b>	<b>the snares</b>	<b>of death</b>
H2256	H7585	H5437	H6923	H4170	H4194

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 86:13** (Parallel theme): For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

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