

# Psalm 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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מִתְּבָלֵל מֵאַלְמָנָה לְמִתְּבָבָב וְנִי שָׁא וְלַל  
The sorrows of hell compassed me about prevented the snares of death  
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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