

Psalms 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Analysis

God's response to human rebellion is not anxiety but divine laughter - not cruel mockery, but the sovereign confidence of one whose plans cannot be thwarted. The Hebrew 'sachaq' (laugh) and 'la'ag' (derision) emphasize God's complete transcendence over earthly schemes. This anthropomorphic language portrays God's absolute sovereignty: He sits enthroned in heaven while nations rage below. This truth provides immense comfort to believers facing persecution, knowing that our God reigns unshaken above all earthly turmoil.

Historical Context

Written during David's reign when Israel's enemies constantly threatened God's anointed king. The phrase 'sitteth in the heavens' emphasizes God's transcendence over earthly powers. This psalm was later understood messianically, pointing to Christ's ultimate victory over all opposition.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign laughter over human rebellion comfort you when facing opposition to your faith?
2. What earthly powers or concerns are you tempted to fear more than you trust in God's sovereign control?

Interlinear Text

יֹשֵׁב בַּ	בְּשָׁמַיִם	יִשְׁחַךְ קִי	אֲדֹנָיִי	יִלְעָג
He that sitteth	in the heavens	shall laugh	the Lord	shall have them in derision
H3427	H8064	H7832	H136	H3932
לְמוֹ:				
H0				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:13 (References Lord): The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Psalms 59:8 (References Lord): But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.

Isaiah 40:22 (Parallel theme): It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Proverbs 1:26 (Parallel theme): I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Psalms 11:4 (References Lord): The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Psalms 53:5 (Parallel theme): There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

Psalms 115:3 (Parallel theme): But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psalms 68:33 (Parallel theme): To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.

Isaiah 66:1 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

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