

# Psalm 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, when thou shalt make ready thine arrows upon thy strings against the face of them.

## Analysis

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God causes His enemies to 'turn their back' in defeat—their flight is sovereignly ordained. The imagery of God preparing arrows 'against the face of them' depicts active divine judgment. Reformed theology sees God not merely permitting evil's defeat but actively bringing it about. God is the warrior who fights for His people; victory comes through His direct intervention, not human effort alone.

## Historical Context

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Arrows symbolized divine judgment throughout Scripture (Deut. 32:23, Ps. 7:13). The image of God as divine archer assured Israel that military outcomes were determined in heaven, not solely on the battlefield. This encouraged trust during overwhelming odds.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing God as actively fighting for you change your approach to spiritual warfare?
2. In what battles do you need to trust God's 'arrows' rather than your own strength?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי

תִּשְׁיַחַת

מֵזָה

שְׁכָמָן

בְּמִינְחָה

H3588

Therefore shalt thou make

them turn their back

thine arrows upon thy strings

H7896

H7926

H4340

תִּכְזַבֵּן

עַל

פְּנֵי

when thou shalt make ready

H5921

against the face

H3559

H6440

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 18:40** (Parallel theme): Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

**Psalms 64:7** (Parallel theme): But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded.