

Psalms 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

Analysis

The plea 'Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men' asks for separation from the wicked's fate. The fear is not temporary association but eternal destiny. Reformed theology sees this as a prayer for perseverance—that God would not allow the psalmist to fall away into apostasy and face judgment with the wicked. Election ensures believers won't share the wicked's end. This prayer expresses confidence in divine preservation, not self-achieved holiness.

Historical Context

Israel's history included divine judgment where the righteous and wicked were separated (flood, Sodom, Egyptian plagues). The prayer asks God to distinguish between covenant-keepers and covenant-breakers in final judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of perseverance assure you won't share the wicked's fate?

2. What does separation from 'sinners and bloody men' mean temporally and eternally?

Interlinear Text

אַל	תִּאַסְרֵנִי	עִם	חַטָּאִים	נַפְשִׁי	וְעִם	אֲנָשִׁים	דָּמִי
H408	Gather	H5973	with sinners	not my soul	H5973	H376	with bloody
	H622		H2400	H5315			H1818

וְחַיִּי
nor my life
H2416

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 139:19 (Blood): Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.