

Psalms 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Analysis

When enemies came 'to eat up my flesh,' they 'stumbled and fell.' The imagery of cannibalistic enemies depicts their voracious hatred, yet God overthrows them. Reformed theology sees divine sovereignty in providence: God orchestrates enemy defeat, turning their own schemes against them. The past tense ('stumbled and fell') expresses prophetic certainty—what God has decreed is as good as accomplished. Faith speaks of future deliverance as past fact because God's promises are utterly reliable.

Historical Context

David faced literal enemies seeking his death—Saul, Absalom, foreign nations. The language of 'eating flesh' was common ancient Near Eastern warfare rhetoric, depicting enemies' desire to utterly destroy their victims. God's supernatural intervention repeatedly saved David.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of defeating past enemies give confidence for present threats?
2. What 'enemies' in your life need to stumble and fall by God's sovereign intervention?

Interlinear Text

בָּקָרָב	עַל־יָ	מְרִעִים	לֶאֱכֹל	אֶת־	בָּשָׁרִי
came	H5921	When the wicked	upon me to eat up	H853	my flesh
H7126		H7489	H398		H1320
אֲפֹרָא	וְאֹיְבָי	לִי־	הֵמָּה	כָּשְׁלוּ	וַיִּפְּלוּ:
even mine enemies	and my foes	H0	H1992	they stumbled	and fell
H6862	H341			H3782	H5307

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:12 (Parallel theme): They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

Isaiah 8:15 (Parallel theme): And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Psalms 9:3 (Parallel theme): When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.

Psalms 14:4 (Parallel theme): Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

Job 19:22 (Parallel theme): Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

Psalms 3:7 (Parallel theme): Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Psalms 22:16 (Evil): For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Psalms 18:4 (Parallel theme): The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Job 31:31 (Parallel theme): If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.

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