

Psalms 35:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

Analysis

False witness violated the ninth commandment and carried severe penalties under Mosaic law (Deuteronomy 19:16-19). The Hebrew 'chamas' (violence, wrong) witnesses rose 'did stand up' in formal legal accusation. This previews Christ's trial where false witnesses testified against Him (Matthew 26:60). The phrase 'things that I knew not' indicates baseless charges, highlighting the psalmist's innocence and trust in God as the ultimate judge who knows all truth.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite courts required testimony of two or three witnesses. False testimony could result in execution, yet David faced such accusations without legal recourse, only divine vindication.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when falsely accused or misrepresented?
2. What comfort comes from knowing God knows the full truth about you?

Interlinear Text

יָקוּמוּן	עֵדֵי י	סָחָם ר	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יָדַעְתִּי
did rise up	witnesses	False	H834	H3808	things that I knew
H6965	H5707	H2555			H3045

יִשָּׂאֵלוּנִי:

they laid to my charge

H7592

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:12 (Resurrection): Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.