

# Psalm 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

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לֹא אָשָׁר בְּסֹבֵב  
did rise up witnesses False things that I knew  
H6965 H5707 H2555 H834 H3808 H3045

וְשִׁאָלָגִים

they laid to my charge

H7592

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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