

Psalm 35:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:

Analysis

The word 'abjects' (Hebrew 'nakheh') denotes the lowest social class—perhaps mercenaries or ruffians. Their joy at David's 'adversity' (literally 'limping' or stumbling) reveals moral depravity celebrating another's suffering. The phrase 'I knew it not' suggests conspiracy and ambush. This contrasts David's transparency with their deceit, and prophetically pictures Christ's experience: mocked by those He came to save.

Historical Context

Public humiliation was deeply shaming in honor-shame cultures. That strangers gathered against David indicates organized opposition, possibly incited by Saul or Absalom, uniting disparate elements against God's anointed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against taking pleasure in others' misfortunes?
2. When surrounded by unexpected opposition, where do you find your security?

Interlinear Text

וּבְצָלָעִי

שָׁמָחָה

בְּאָסֶג

But in mine adversity they rejoiced and gathered themselves together

H6761

H8055

H622

וְאָסֶג

עַל

אֶל

כִּים

and gathered themselves together yea the abjects

H622

H5921

yea the abjects

H3808

H5222

בְּעֵתִי

בְּרִעָה

אֶל

לֹא

against me and I knew it not they did tear me and ceased

H3045

H7167

H3808

me and ceased

H1826

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:2 (Parallel theme): Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

Mark 14:65 (Parallel theme): And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.