

Psalm 35:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

Analysis

Hypocritical mockers 'at feasts' suggests people who ate David's bread then turned against him, heightening the betrayal. Gnashing teeth expresses rage and hostile intent (Job 16:9, Acts 7:54). This imagery foreshadows both Christ's passion where mockers gnashed at Him, and the eschatological judgment where the wicked gnash teeth in outer darkness (Matthew 8:12), showing that present hostility previews eternal consequences.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern meals established covenant bonds; eating together implied loyalty. Mockery at feasts thus violated sacred hospitality, making the betrayal especially heinous in David's cultural context.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced betrayal from those who should have been allies?
2. How can you extend forgiveness to those who mock rather than support you?

Interlinear Text

שׁׁבִים: עַל יְהוָה בְּמִנְפִי
With hypocritical mockers in feasts they gnashed upon me with their teeth

H2611 H3934 H4580 H2786 H5921 H8127

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:9 (Parallel theme): He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

Lamentations 2:16 (Parallel theme): All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

Psalms 37:12 (Parallel theme): The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

John 18:28 (Parallel theme): Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

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