

# Psalms 35:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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בְּ חֲנִפִּי	לִעֲגֵי י	מִעַ וּג	חָרָה ק	עַל י	שְׁנִימֹו:
With hypocritical	mockers	in feasts	they gnashed	H5921	upon me with their teeth
H2611	H3934	H4580	H2786		H8127

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.