

Psalm 35:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.

Analysis

Those 'quiet in the land' (Hebrew 'shaanan,' peaceful, secure, trusting) represents innocent people living in covenant fidelity. Wicked individuals specifically target such people because righteousness exposes their evil (John 3:20). The plotting of 'deceitful matters' rather than honest confrontation reveals moral corruption—they lack even the courage of open opposition, instead employing cunning schemes against the defenseless.

Historical Context

Israel's covenant community expected justice and security for those dwelling peaceably. Attacks on the innocent violated both divine and human law, warranting God's intervention as covenant protector.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Are you cultivating a 'quiet' trust in God amid societal chaos?
2. How does godly living sometimes attract opposition rather than approval?

Interlinear Text

רְגָעִים
לֹא כִּי
עַל יְהִי רֹאשׁ שָׁלֹום
not peace For they speak
H3588 H3808 H7965 H1696 H5921
against them that are quiet
H7282

וְעַתָּה בְּרֹאשׁ אֶת־
מִרְמֹות דָּבָר אֲרָצָה
but they devise
H2803 H4820 H1697 H776
in the land matters deceitful

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