

Psalms 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

כִּי	לֹא	שָׁלוֹם	יְדַבֵּר	וְעַל	רָגִיעִי
H3588	H3808	not peace	For they speak	H5921	against them that are quiet
		H7965	H1696		H7282

אֶרֶץ	דְּבַר	מְרִמּוֹת	יִשְׁבְּדוּן:
in the land	matters	deceitful	but they devise
H776	H1697	H4820	H2803

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