

Psalm 35:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness;
and let them not rejoice over me.

Analysis

David appeals to God's righteousness as the basis for judgment, not his own merit. This reflects covenant theology where God's character guarantees justice. The petition 'let them not rejoice over me' recognizes that the wicked's triumph would imply God's inability or unwillingness to save, thus impugning His name. Personal vindication becomes secondary to God's glory—the primary concern is that God's righteousness be demonstrated.

Historical Context

Divine righteousness (Hebrew 'tsedeq') was foundational to Israel's covenant confidence. God's reputation as just Judge sustained hope that He would ultimately vindicate the oppressed and judge the wicked.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does focusing on God's righteousness rather than your own change your prayers?

2. When is it appropriate to ask God to not let evil triumph over you?

Interlinear Text

שֹׁפֵט בְּ	בְּ צִדְקָתְךָ	יְהִי הָ	אַל אָלֶפֶת	וְאַל
Judge	according to thy righteousness	me O LORD	my God	H408
H8199	H6664	H3068	H430	
וְשִׁמְחָה	לֵ			
and let them not rejoice	H0			
H8055				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 43:1 (Righteousness): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Psalms 26:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

Psalms 7:8 (Righteousness): The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.

Psalms 35:19 (Parallel theme): Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

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