

Psalm 35:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

Analysis

The heart's secret satisfaction 'Ah, so would we have it' exposes the inner malice preceding outward action. 'We have swallowed him up' uses the Hebrew 'bala' (engulf, destroy completely), the same word for Jonah being swallowed. David prays against both the attitude and the outcome—that enemies would neither mentally gloat nor actually destroy him. This reveals that sin begins internally (Matthew 5:28), making heart transformation essential for true righteousness.

Historical Context

The metaphor of swallowing enemies appears in ancient Near Eastern conquest language, describing total destruction. David fears complete obliteration at enemies' hands, appealing to God for preservation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What heart attitudes need to change even when outward behavior seems acceptable?

2. How do you guard against internal gloating when those who oppose you face difficulties?

Interlinear Text

אַל נְפַשׁ כֵּן אָמַר אֵל בְּלֹבֶם הָא חָנָכָה
H408 Let them not say in their hearts Ah so would H408 H5315
H559 H3820 H1889 H559

בְּלֹבֶם:

We have swallowed him up

H1104

Additional Cross-References

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 124:3 (Parallel theme): Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

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