Psalms 35:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Analysis

The judicial imagery reaches its climax: shame and dishonor as divine verdict on the proud who exalted themselves. Being 'clothed' with shame contrasts their desired clothing with honor, showing that God's judgment reverses human aspirations. Those who 'magnify themselves' (Hebrew 'gadal,' make great) against David actually magnify themselves against God's anointed, thus warranting divine humiliation. This anticipates Philippians 2—self-exaltation leads to humbling, humility to exaltation.

Historical Context

Clothing metaphors were powerful in cultures where garments signified status. To be clothed with shame meant public disgrace, the opposite of the honor-robes these enemies sought.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does pride make us vulnerable to divine opposition?
2. In what ways are you tempted to magnify yourself rather than humble yourself before God?

Interlinear Text

יֵבֹשׁוּ	וְיַחְפְּרוּ	יַחְדָּו	שְׂמֵחֵי	רָעָתִי
Let them be ashamed	and brought to confusion	together	that rejoice	at mine hurt
H954	H2659	H3162	H8056	H7451

וְיִלְבְּשׁוּ	בֹשֶׁת	וּכְלִמָּה	הַמַּגְדִּילִים	עָלָי:
let them be clothed	with shame	and dishonour	that magnify	H5921
H3847	H1322	H3639	H1431	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:16 (Parallel theme): For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

Psalms 132:18 (Parallel theme): His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Job 19:5 (Parallel theme): If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach:

Job 8:22 (Parallel theme): They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.