

Psalm 35:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

Analysis

Darkness and slipperiness combined create the image of complete disorientation and helplessness. The Hebrew 'chalaqlaqqot' (slippery) intensifies the danger—enemies cannot find sure footing for escape or counterattack. God's judgment isn't merely punitive but ensures evildoers experience the insecurity they inflicted on others, fulfilling the principle that 'the wicked are trapped by their own deeds' (Psalm 9:16).

Historical Context

Ancient Palestinian roads could be treacherous, especially in rainy seasons. Darkness without lamp or moonlight made travel hazardous, so this metaphor captured genuine fear of being caught in hostile conditions.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Have you seen instances where evildoers fell into the traps they set for others?

2. How does God's justice include letting the wicked reap what they sow?

Interlinear Text

וְמִלְאָהָה תְּמֻלָּלְקָה תְּחַשָּׁר דָּרְכָּם יְהִי
H1961 Let their way H1870 be dark H2822 and slippery H2519 and let the angel H4397 of the LORD H3068

רְדָפָה:

persecute

H7291

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 73:18 (Parallel theme): Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Jeremiah 23:12 (Darkness): Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

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