

Psalm 35:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit,
which without cause they have digged for my soul.

Analysis

The phrase 'without cause' (Hebrew 'chinnam') appears twice, emphasizing the unprovoked nature of the persecution. This echoes Christ's experience: 'They hated me without a cause' (John 15:25), making this psalm messianic. The hunting metaphors (net, pit) depict premeditated malice, yet David's restraint from retaliation demonstrates trust in divine justice rather than human vindication.

Historical Context

Hunters in ancient times dug concealed pits and spread nets to trap animals. David, skilled in wilderness survival, knew these techniques and uses them metaphorically for his human predators' schemes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When have you experienced opposition 'without cause,' and how did you respond?
2. How does Jesus's suffering 'without cause' comfort you in unjust persecution?

Interlinear Text

רָשַׁת	מִ	שְׁמַת	לִ	בְּמִנְחָה	לְ	לִ	שְׁמַת	לִ	רָשַׁת
H3588	For without cause	H2600	H2934	H0	in a pit	H7845	for me	H7568	their net
לְנַפְשִׁי	לְ	נִפְשָׁר	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ
For without cause	they have digged	H2600	H2658	H5315	for my soul	H5315			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 140:5 (Parallel theme): The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

John 15:25 (Parallel theme): But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Psalms 9:15 (Parallel theme): The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.

Job 18:8 (Parallel theme): For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

Psalms 119:85 (Parallel theme): The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

Psalms 64:4 (Parallel theme): That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.

Psalms 25:3 (Parallel theme): Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

Psalms 69:4 (Parallel theme): They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.