

Psalms 41:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them.

Analysis

David's petition 'raise me up, that I may requite them' has troubled many readers. The Hebrew shalam (requite, repay) can mean peaceful completion or just recompense. David likely seeks vindication through God's justice rather than personal revenge, asking God to demonstrate his innocence by delivering him before his enemies.

Historical Context

David's cry for vindication must be understood within Israel's covenant framework where the king represented God's cause. Attacks on David were attacks on God's anointed and thus on God's reputation among the nations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between seeking just vindication and pursuing personal revenge?

2. What does David's appeal to God for 'requite' teach about entrusting judgment to divine hands?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה ה

H859

יְהוָה ה

But thou O LORD

H3068

חַנּוּן נִי

be merciful

H2603

וְהִקְיֵם נִי

unto me and raise me up

H6965

וְאַשְׁלֶמָּה ה

that I may requite

H7999

לָהֶם:

H1992

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