

Psalm 41:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish?

Analysis

David's enemies speak 'evil' against him, asking 'When shall he die, and his name perish?' This represents the deepest form of hostility--not merely wishing harm but desiring complete obliteration, including the memory of David's existence. The Hebrew *shem* (name) encompasses reputation, legacy, and continuing influence.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, the continuation of one's name through descendants and remembered deeds constituted a form of immortality. Enemies wishing the perishing of David's name sought to erase him from history entirely.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why is the desire for someone's 'name to perish' particularly malicious?
2. How does God's promise to establish David's throne forever (2 Samuel 7) answer this threat?

Interlinear Text

מִתְּלִבָּעַ אָמַרְתִּי בְּעֵלָמָתִי
Mine enemies speak evil of me When shall he die
H341 H559 H7451 H4970 H4191 H6

שְׁמוֹ:

and his name

H8034

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:7 (Evil): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Psalms 38:12 (Parallel theme): They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

Psalms 102:8 (Parallel theme): Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me.

Job 20:7 (Parallel theme): Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?

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