

# Psalms 41:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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אֹיְבֵי י	יֹאמְרוּ	בַּעַל י	מִתִּי לִי	יָמוּת	אֶבֶד	
Mine enemies	speak	evil	H0	H4970	of me When shall he die	perish
H341	H559	H7451			H4191	H6
שְׁמוֹ:						
and his name						
H8034						

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?