

# Psalms 41:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more.

## Analysis

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The enemies' whispered verdict is that 'an evil disease' (literally 'a thing of Belial') cleaves to David. They interpret his suffering as evidence of divine judgment, concluding 'now that he lieth he shall rise up no more.' This theological misinterpretation of suffering recurs in Job's friends and those who mocked Jesus on the cross.

## Historical Context

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The Hebrew phrase 'thing of Belial' connotes worthlessness or wickedness. Enemies attributed David's illness to demonic or evil influence, claiming his condition proved divine abandonment.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do we resist the temptation to interpret others' suffering as evidence of divine judgment?

2. What is the proper response when others misinterpret our trials as proof of God's displeasure?

## Interlinear Text

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דִּבֶּר	בְּ לִיעֵל	יֵצ וִקֵּן	בּוֹ	וְאֶשָּׁר
disease	An evil	say they cleaveth fast	H0	H834
H1697	H1100	H3332		
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וְכֵן		לֹא	יֹסֵף	לָקוּם:
unto him and now that he lieth		no more	he shall rise up	
H7901		H3808	H3254	H6965

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 71:11** (Parallel theme): Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him.