

# Psalm 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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דְּבָרִים לִיעֵל יְצָא בְּ

disease An evil say they cleaveth fast  
H1697 H1100 H3332

H0

H834

לֹא יִרְאֶה כְּבָשָׂנִים

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.

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