

Psalm 42:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Analysis

The psalmist addresses God directly: 'Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?' This is not doubt but dialogue, the honest complaint of faith that refuses to pretend. The questions assume God should act, evidence of underlying trust even amid apparent abandonment.

Historical Context

Lament psalms model honest prayer that expresses confusion and pain while maintaining relationship with God. This tradition influenced later Jewish and Christian prayer, legitimizing the expression of struggle before God.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why is it important to ask 'why' questions to God rather than about God?
2. How does direct complaint to God differ from bitter unbelief?

Interlinear Text

לֹמַה	שַׁאֲכַחְתָּנִי	לֹמַת	הַסְלָעִי	לֹא	לֹא	אָמַךְ	הָןָ
I will say	unto God	my rock	H4100	Why hast thou forgotten	H4100		
H559	H410	H5553		H7911			
I mourning	H1980	because of the oppression	H3906	of the enemy	H341		
H6937							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:6 (Parallel theme): I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

Psalms 18:2 (References God): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 43:2 (References God): For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Isaiah 40:27 (References God): Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

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