

# Psalms 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

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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

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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

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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 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

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|               |               |                           |        |                         |        |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| אֹמֵךְ הִנֵּה | לֵא לֵאלֹהִים | סֶלְעִי                   | לָמָּה | שָׁכַחְתָּ נִי          | לָמָּה |
| I will say    | unto God      | my rock                   | H4100  | Why hast thou forgotten | H4100  |
| H559          | H410          | H5553                     |        | H7911                   |        |
| קִיֵּי רִי    | אֵלֵיךְ       | בְּלִי חֵץ                |        | אֹיְבִי:                |        |
| I mourning    | H1980         | because of the oppression |        | of the enemy            |        |
| H6937         |               | H3906                     |        | H341                    |        |

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?