

Psalms 44:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth; by reason of the enemy and avenger.

Analysis

The source of shame is identified: 'the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth' and 'the enemy and avenger.' The enemies' words attack not just Israel but Israel's God, hence 'blasphemeth.' Their vengeance is not merely military but theological, claiming their victory proves their gods superior to Yahweh.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare often involved ideological conflict between national deities. The Rabshakeh's speech before Jerusalem (2 Kings 18-19) exemplifies how enemies used theological argument alongside military threat.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should we respond when attacks on us become attacks on our God?
2. What is the connection between reproach and blasphemy in the enemy's assault?

Interlinear Text

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| מִקוֹל | מִדְּבַר | וּמִגִּיד | מִפְּנֵי | אֹיֵב |
| For the voice | of him that reproacheth | and blasphemeth | by reason | of the enemy |
| H6963 | H2778 | H1442 | H6440 | H341 |
| וּמִתְנַקֵּם: | | | | |
| and avenger | | | | |
| H5358 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 8:2 (Parallel theme): Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.