

Psalms 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

Analysis

David's prayer for judgment is not personal vengeance but a call for divine justice. 'Let them fall by their own counsels' invokes the principle of retributive justice - the wicked trap themselves in their schemes (Psalm 7:15-16). The 'multitude of their transgressions' and their rebellion ('rebelled against thee') show these are not innocent victims but covenant violators. Such imprecatory prayers are legitimate when God's people call on Him to execute His threatened judgments against unrepentant rebels, ultimately pointing to the final judgment.

Historical Context

Imprecatory psalms reflected covenant curses that God Himself established against covenant breakers. David as God's anointed had the right to invoke these curses on those opposing God's kingdom. The early church understood these prayers as ultimately aimed at spiritual enemies - sin, death, and Satan - defeated through Christ's work.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you pray for justice while maintaining proper attitudes toward enemies?
2. What does it mean to pray imprecatory prayers against spiritual forces rather than people?

Interlinear Text

הַאֲשִׁימָם	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	יִפְּלוּ	מִמַּעַצ וְיֵהָם	בְּרֹב
Destroy	thou them O God	let them fall	by their own counsels	in the multitude
H816	H430	H5307	H4156	H7230
פִּשְׁעֵיהֶם	הֲדִיחַ מוֹ	כִּי	מָרְדוּ	בָּרָם
of their transgressions	cast them out		for they have rebelled	
H6588	H5080	H3588	H4784	H0

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:10 (Parallel theme): But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

2 Samuel 17:14 (Parallel theme): And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

Psalms 31:18 (Parallel theme): Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Psalms 71:13 (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.

1 Corinthians 3:19 (References God): For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

2 Samuel 15:31 (Parallel theme): And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

2 Samuel 17:23 (Parallel theme): And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Psalms 55:15 (Parallel theme): Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

Hosea 9:7 (Sin): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.