

Psalm 50:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

Analysis

The warning: 'Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.' The invitation to 'consider' offers opportunity for repentance. But continued forgetfulness leads to judgment described in violent imagery. 'None to deliver' emphasizes that no one can rescue from God's judgment.

Historical Context

The lion-tearing imagery appears in prophetic judgment oracles (Hosea 5:14). It depicts God as powerful predator when His patience ends, unlike the silent observer they imagined.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'forget God' while still being religious?
2. How does this warning balance with the earlier invitation to call on God in trouble?

Interlinear Text

בִּנּוּ	זֶה אַתָּה נָא	שְׁכַחֵן	אֵל וְהַ	פָּנִים
Now consider H995	H4994 H2063	this ye that forget H7911	God H433	H6435
מִצְאֵל:	אָתָּה נָא	בָּרָךְ	לְמִצְאֵל:	בָּרָךְ

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 9:17 (References God): The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Job 8:13 (References God): So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

Psalms 7:2 (Parallel theme): Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

Hosea 4:6 (References God): My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Deuteronomy 32:18 (References God): Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

Isaiah 51:13 (Parallel theme): And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

Psalms 10:4 (References God): The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God; God is not in all his thoughts.

Jeremiah 2:32 (Parallel theme): Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

Amos 2:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

Hosea 13:8 (Parallel theme): I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

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