

Psalm 53:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

Analysis

The coming terror: 'There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee.' Sudden, unexpected judgment produces terror among those who thought themselves secure. 'No fear was' indicates their false confidence. God scatters their bones--image of complete defeat and dishonor.

Historical Context

The scattering of bones meant no proper burial, the ultimate disgrace in ancient culture. This may reference specific historical deliverances where confident enemies suddenly panicked.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does false security lead to sudden terror?
2. What does the scattering of bones represent about complete defeat?

Interlinear Text

לְאֵלֹהִים	פָּנָים	לְאֵלֹהִים	פָּנָים	לֹא	לְאֵלֹהִים	פָּנָים	לְאֵלֹהִים
H8033	fear	There were they in great	H3808	H1961	There were they in great	H6343	
H6342		H6343		H1961		H6343	
בִּן	אֱלֹהִים	פָּנָר	עַצְמָה	וְתִּשְׁעַט	חַנְנָה	בְּנֵי	
H3588	because God	hath scattered	H6106	the bones	of him that encampeth	H2583	
H430		H6340				H2583	
בְּנֵי	אֱלֹהִים	מִאֵלָה	מִאֵלָה	מִאֵלָה	מִאֵלָה	מִאֵלָה	מִאֵלָה
against thee thou hast put them to shame	H3588	because God	H430	hath despised	H3988		
H954						H3988	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:1 (Parallel theme): The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Leviticus 26:36 (Parallel theme): And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

Psalms 141:7 (Parallel theme): Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.

Jeremiah 6:30 (Parallel theme): Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

Ezekiel 6:5 (Parallel theme): And I will lay the dead carcases of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars.

Leviticus 26:17 (Parallel theme): And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

1 Samuel 14:15 (Parallel theme): And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

Psalms 2:4 (Parallel theme): He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psalms 40:14 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.

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.